Vampire Princess Volume 2 - Turbulence in Royal Capital

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Episode 1 – Risking Your Own Body for the Sake of Others

"…This has become something troubling."

The guild leader of Arra, Collard, who I just met a week ago was furrowing his brow and said that while heaving deep—very deep sighs.

"Well, I feel you're always troubled every time we meet though?"

Guild Leader Collard looked at me with a reproachful gaze as I unconsciously let my true thoughts leak out.

"I think it's because in 8 out of 10 cases, your majesty is the cause."

At some point he had changed the way he addressed me to 'your majesty'.

When I entered this room the first time and undid my disguise, he prostrated himself and started saying "For Your Majesty to grace this one with your presence is—". I successfully stopped him with "It's fine already, just talk normally!" but it seems he doesn't have any intention to change the 'Your Majesty' part.

Even so, 8 out of 10 cases? Did I really make a lot of trouble for him?

Errm… the first time I met him, he was troubled because there was an incident with the Joey reward.

The next time he was troubled because of the private talks.

The third time he was troubled because of the monster stampede.

Then, he got troubled after I refused his plea in negotiations.

Thoroughly getting beaten in battle against monsters is no longer in the realm of ‘troubled’.

And the last one is being troubled when I descended to the battle ground.

That means around 4 out of 6, errmm…

“The cases where I was the cause is around 67%. If we rounded it then that's around 7 out of 10.”

“Whether it’s 7 or 8 is not the issue! …*cough*, my apologies.”

Noticing that he had become flustered, he cleared his throat and fixed his posture.

As one would expect even though he was completely exhausted in the battle field, after one week passed his vitality was back. Despite him saying that he’s troubled, his countenance looks pretty healthy to me…

“—Perhaps you got new girlfriend?”

--Buhh!

Hearing my direct question, the black tea he’s drinking entered the wrong pipe and made him choke.

“Cough…cough cough…why are you asking something like that?!”

“Well, somehow. I feel there’s something different from before, something like…happiness errm.. riajuu aura floating around from your entire body, you see.”

“Ugh…”

Guild Leader Collard seems to be trying to fix his dignity, but in the next moment his expressions crumbled.

“Well..you can tell? Ehehe, you see… it's our guild counter personnel, a girl named Mona.”

Ah, I think she’s the unrequited love of the guild leader, the red haired girl who was doing sexual things with around 3 men. Though I have completely erased that shocking memory from guild leader's head with my ‘evil eyes’.

Also, not that I care but hearing a man who has crossed certain age laughing with an ‘ehehe’ sound is gross, I hope he knocks it off.

“I received an intense attack from her, and now we formally became a couple.”

“So you’ve become the fourth prey…”

“Hah? Whose??”

“Well, nothing really.”

Since the person himself is happy, I will say no more.

“Wait, I come here since I heard you wanted to talk me, so you called me here to brag about that?”

Even I didn’t have a girlfriend in my previous life. …tch go die!

“Of course not!”

Guild leader expression turns discouraged.

“There is the compensation of human casualty and material damage caused by the monster stampede, and the reduction of the amount of merchants who come and go because of rumour—well, for both cases it’ll be resolved in a matter of time. The problem is your majesty’s influence!”

Even if I’m being told I was the cause, for this one week I’ve been secluding myself in the castle and have been busy dealing with my subordinates’ questions like ‘Princess why didn’t you summon this one?’ or ‘When was this one’s turn!?’.

Then as I look at the network for a change of mood, bypassing with evil eyes, when I look at the state of the guild leader Collard, he seems to want to contact me, so I used that as an excuse and headed to the lower world.

“…Did I do something?”

“Your majesty didn’t do anything directly. However, there are monsters that appeared and are doing territory declarations using your majesty’s name in the Great Forest, dungeon, and White Dragon Mountain Range, saying something like ‘This is the territory of the great Hiyuki-sama!’ ‘Die for Hiyuki-sama!’ ‘Hiyuki-sama hah hah *ragged breath*’--“

I think the last one is an illness.

“In the end, what was that?! The day before yesterday a part of the Dragon Mountain Range was blown apart and created a large crater, what’s with that!? From what I heard your majesty also had a hand in that?!”

“Ah, there’s a group of Youma (lit. ghost, apparition) who didn’t want to

cooperate with my Kingdom, so Iki, Soujuu, and Gaijin—well, my subordinates who volunteered to do some negotiations, went there and tried to persuade them. However it seems they put too much power into their persuasions and ended up with that."

"Are persuasions in your majesty's country always accompanied with destructive actions!?"

"Well… if I can I actually want to deny that."

There are many cases I knew of that made me unable to deny that.

"Moreover who gave you permission to declare it's your territory or to destroy it?!"

Why is he so agitated? I tilted my head in puzzlement and answered.

"Of course from the masters of those places. They said 'by all means' and allowed it though? Or rather, they all had become the citizens of my country. So whether I want to boil or bake them, I can do as I please right?"

"I can't understand your theory! All those places are part of my country!"

Well, even though you said that, isn't it just something that humans one sidedly decided? It's not like they talked to the monsters.

As I said that his answer is 'Monsters shouldn't have the same rights as humans'.

"….hmmm…, then isn't it fine? My country only has monsters, and the human side takes a stance of not recognizing their existence. Wouldn't that mean they can just ignore whatever the monsters said?"

“Normally you can think like that…”

There Collard made a face as if he was chewing 10 bugs.

“Your majesty’s influence is way overwhelming. That giant dragon can be seen even from the rural area, much less the adventurers who saw the strength of your majesty and your subordinates in close proximity, among them appeared some who adore your majesty. From the citizens or even member of the Diet, there are some who have views that we should join together with ‘Imperial Crimson’ because of this. Managing and extinguishing it are strenuous feats. The reason is Gald not here is also because he’s dealing with that.”

Ah, so this is the reason I felt something was missing. The sultry figure of Gald wasn’t here.

Even if you throw those complains at me, it’s somebody else’s problem so other than giving vague encouragement there’s nothing else I can do.

“Well…you had it rough. Originally you’re not suited for this, so how about giving up your position as guild leader?”

Yeah, unconsciously I said my true thought.

“Everyone shrinks back, and none are willing to succeed it.”

“Even the words from top brass in the country or church, ‘The free city of Arra on the surface is obeying the country, but do you think they also have back connections with the monsters?’ doesn’t feel painful anymore--”

Glancing at me he corrected himself.

“—my stomach ache I mean.”

Well, actually conversing with me right now can also be considered as having connections to monsters.

“Well… certainly. If you’re able to do back dealing while pretending to obey you might be able to conduct yourself better.”

“Yeah, it’s as you said.”

Collard disappointed but agrees.

“…Then? What I should I do? Should we appeal them with showing some farce, fake fight between us in middle of town to prove that we aren’t working together?”

“Who would want that! Or rather, because how large your majesty’s influence is, I might be stabbed from behind! Actually, in training school, Joey spilled the fact that he talked intimately with your majesty and had his training time increased from eight hours to twenty! He looks more worn out day by day…”

No matter where he goes he is a stupid…err, unfortunate child.

“That’s why, my request is, for a while I hope your majesty and your subordinates won’t cause a public disturbance in the outskirts of Arra. That’s the first one.”

“Well, originally I wanted to leave Arra for a while. I think the disturbances in the Great Forest and the surrounding areas will return to how it was before.”

Well I won’t demand them to not attack or eat those who invade their territory, but I think aimless attacks like stampedes won’t happen again, I added.

“Hearing that, I think this talk already worth it. By the way there’s one more thing I want to confirm—“

“What is it?”

“I heard from Mia that your majesty is going to the royal capital of Caldia?”

Ah, I think I said it before the disturbance.

“That’s the plan.”

“…Actually I wouldn’t recommend it.”

He looks distressed.

“Why?”

It’s not like I’m going there to pick a fight.

As if he anticipated that question, he silently takes two envelopes from the drawer of his working desk, then placed it in front of me.

Both of the envelopes are cold white and were sealed with beeswax but things like an address or seal which can locate where it comes from aren’t there.

“—What is this?”

“Both of them are informal letters, but one of it is from the Noble houses Diet and the other is from his highness, the third prince Ashil Cloud. I think they gave

it to me so that it would somehow reach your majesty... as I though the country really does doubt our relationship.”

“Hee.”

First I need to open it and confirm the contents, but when I summoned my sword “Sinner of Rose (Gilles de Reis)” Collard became upset.

“—Don’t use such a dangerous thing! I’ll lend you paper knife!”

Then, I borrowed the paper knife to open it and read the contents, but…

“Hmm… from house of nobles it is “Throw down your weapons rebels of the country and come to our custody.” They said”

“Well, as expected. Their aim most likely is your wealth. There’s also a case with the currency of the Lost Era. To present it to the country, that’s actually quite an unreasonable demand. –Well, let’s pretend we don’t know anything.”

Though he had expected it to some extent, Collard still nodded with an expression on his face as if he had received bad marks on a test.

“Well that’s true. By the way, how many troops does this country have?”

“Standing armies and mercenaries, added with retainer groups from each noble all in all number around fifty or seventy thousand. –What about it?”

“That’s surprisingly few. With only that much if I mobilize the round table members, even if we hold back.. how many minutes can they hold I wonder…”

“What are you trying to imply?!”

Collard asked me in a panic, as if trying to jump out from the couch. But, this letter’s content is more or less ‘that’ right?

“Well, since this seems like a declaration of war, I want to crush them?”

Collard was only flapping his mouth, so I can’t make out what he wants to say.

“Then, the other letter is from the prince: “To my lovely princess. I wouldn’t mind reaching the afterlife as long this sloppy hand writing remains. I wrote this for my dear rose so I can let this passionate feeling in my heart—“ wait, what is this?”

“…A love letter, I think.”

Hearing the words of the now calmed down guild leader, Collard, I tilted my head.

“One is a declaration of war, while the other one is a love letter, is the top brass in this country in disorder?”

“No…as I said, it’s not a declaration of war, please don’t readily think it as one. … And also even though the third prince is also a ruler, he doesn’t have any connections with the house noble diet. Or rather, he thinks the nobles are a nuisance, so please think of them separately.”

“The prince thinks the nobles are a nuisance?”

Perhaps he’s an idiot or perhaps he’s someone extremely capable and can see the violation of vested rights by the nobles—though looking at how he sent a

love letter to a princess of a demon country who he has never met before points to the former.

“At any rate, he’s a hero. When he was 11 years old, eight assassins aimed to kill him and his 6 year old sister when they were at a summer resort. In order to protect his little sister he killed them all. Not only that, at the yearly martial arts tournament in the capital of Caldia, he has gotten five successive wins in the sword divisions since he was 12 years old.

Also, to accumulate combat experience he volunteered to join the guild in the capital when he was 14 years old. When he became 16 years old, he earned S rank title.

Just saying, but his victory at martial arts tournaments is not connected with the fact that he is a prince, he earned that achievement through pure ability.

I don’t really understand much about swordsmanship, and while this might be impolite to Gald, even Gald won’t be able to win against his highness with pure sword technique.”

I silently shrugged my shoulders. Well, after all I’m just self taught.

Even so, I want to test how long I can last against those who accumulate skill through genuine training. Moreover apparently he’s S rank.

“That’s why his skill is genuine. Plus because he is young and handsome, he’s popular regardless of gender. That’s why for houses of nobles who want to make royalty only a figurehead, he is a pain.”

If you only go by looks, Collard is also like a prince though.

“What a pain. …That said, he arranged a date and place to meet, so I guess it’s fine to meet him once. Even if it’s a trap I can just break free with force.”

As I said that, Collard looks resigned and asked,

“Uhh… I actually didn’t want to ask, but, can you tell me the specific date and place?”

“Next week the 3. At the masquerade ball to be held in the capital. Time-wise it’s excellent.”

I show him—waving the written invitation that was enclosed in the letter.

“…I see, it’s a common place for clandestine meetings between men and women.”

“Well, under any circumstances I think it won’t turn into a love affair.”

While saying that, judging that the talk is over, I rose from my seat.

As I was retreating Collard appealed fervently to my back,

“Your majesty, if by some chance the nobles or his highness Ashil does something impolite, please I beg you that you remember that it’s not under the consensus of all nobles nor the royalty.”

--Oh? I thought for a sec then ask again.

“Then how do I distinguish them? If they keep silent then they affirm it anyway. I don’t know how I should distinguish them. For example, if a bee stings you and flies away, will you check all the bees one by one? Isn’t it more effective to just squish them all?”

“…”

I kind of expected that answer, Collard closing his eyes without saying anything.

Then I continue while swinging the letter from the nobles with my two fingers.

“Stealing from others while not wanting their own things stolen, isn’t that just selfishness? What I will do is similar with their own ideals, so won’t that make it fair?”

In the end I wanted to say something like please take care of your lover, but I stopped myself.

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Before meeting with the rumoured prince, I plan to make her meet another important person first.

Episode 2 – All Sorts of Preparation

Collard stopped me as I was about to leave the guild leader room.

“Please wait a minute. I just wanted to confirm, what kind of means did your majesty plan to use to infiltrate the royal city of Caldia? Their security is different than this city, which allows anybody to visit. They strictly regulate who can enter and exit the city.”

“By ‘that’ way, in a single jump.”

Digging a tunnel would be tiresome.

“D-don’t tell me, did you plan to travel there by riding on that spectacular dragon again!?”

Toward Collard who lost his cool, I waved my hand to dismiss the idea. Well, I could also travel with my country (the Sky Garden), which is equal to a small prefecture in Japan. Nevertheless, I was stumped because all of my choices were too flashy.

“…Be that as it may your majesty, it seems that you don’t want to use direct methods to infiltrate the city, correct?”

“That obvious isn’t it? There’s no way I would want to enter through the front and exclaim ‘Haluuuu~’ magnificently”. Just declaring my own name would already cause a huge uproar.

After I said so, Collard with a resigned face brought out a silver plate and a sealed letter. The plate resembled the guild badge which Joey showed me before but it was twice as big, almost the size of a decoration which would be placed on a wall. The letter also had a proper Arra adventurer guild seal and the guild leader addressee on it. Then, he placed it on the table towards me. Judging that this seems to mean our talk will continue, I returned to the sofa.

“-What is this?” For now, I pulled the plate towards me to look at it.

“It’s a pass that was officially issued by Arra city. Therefore, with this there won’t be any problems entering a city even if it’s the royal capital.”

“Hmmm, is that okay, openly aiding me like this?”

“…There’s no other way. I’m definitely reluctant, but currently, Arra city is caught between three of your majesty’s territories. It’s a situation where a man who has a sword pointed at his neck, and would receive a fatal injury if he moves even a little. It’s my duty to do whatever I can to minimize the risk of an uproar happening in the royal capital isn’t it?”

Ooh! Collard, it looks like you’re able to grasp the situation and use your head! As I thought, adversity causes humans to grow doesn’t it? Or is it “that”? A case where someone improved after getting a girlfriend.

“…Is there something? Your majesty has a complicated look, a bit warm but also a bit scornful.”

“No-thi-ng~. Anyway, I appreciate your gift. By the way, I can feel magical power from it, does this have a magical function?”

“Yes, let me demonstrate it for you. As your majesty passes through the royal capital’s entrance, press the ‘☆’ with your finger, then chant ‘Open’ to emit a special field. The field can negate the royal capital’s barrier for a temporary period of time. Well, I’m sure the likes of that barrier is not a problem for your majesty, but when it’s broken by force, it kind of notifies that there’s an emergency.”

Ah, that reminds me, I also had encounter with that barrier thingy! From my memory there was nothing remaining though since I destroyed it easily without any problems at all. I didn’t know how far it was stretched out, but it probably covered the castle wall and gate. If I attempt to sneak into the royal capital by jumping through it under cover of night, I would unknowingly break it easily and risk my existence being exposed.

I absolutely have to think about this. Suddenly, I held a great power, and felt all-powerful, but I wasn’t aware that the humans would have a trap like that. Right now I definitely feel it. As expected, I must stop myself from doing things by my own means. Who knows, in the distant future I might make a mistake that can’t be fixed. Considering this, I have to give Collard my gratitude for telling me about this matter.

“Thank you Collard. I am grateful for all you have done.”

As I said so while lowering my head, the guild leader looked at me as if I was some completely unknown monster. “Is-is this some kind of harassment your majesty, or is this sort of subtle objection!?”

“…No, it’s just a normal ‘thank you’ I think?”

“Your majesty? You thanked… me?! —No-no way! Are those your parting words since you’re going to kill me?!?” In panic, he turns to escape by raising one of his feet.

“Wa-wait a minute! Did you think I was that dangerous!?”

“You weren’t aware it yourself!?”

He stared at me with scornful eyes, but about that, it seems I was being blamed for my subordinates’ lack of common sense? Even so, I myself didn’t kill without reason, and I tried to resolve matters with dialogue rather than violence.

“…I believe I am quite the pacifist?”

‘Uwaah, this girl is hopeless!’ Showed on Collard’s face which was covered by his hand and facing upward towards the ceiling.

“Well…I’m aware there were a few differences between our understandings. So, as supplemental information, the field has a time limit of 30 minutes and becomes unusable for half a day after a single use. Its range has is a radius of 1 to 1.5 meters, therefore your majesty must not be careless.”

Despite the explanation from Collard, who regained his composure and became very serious. With a hazy feeling, I silently nodded.

“Then, although this is impertinent, I believe the barrier’s size is only enough to take 1 or maybe 2 of your subjects at best. But since you’re participating in a masquerade ball, if the participant is female then it’s natural for her companion, who comes along, to also be female. I advise that your majesty be accompanied by a female subject.”

“I see…”
In that case, I should bring Mikoto shouldn’t I? Utsuho has a bit of problem with her personality.

“And then this letter here, it’s from Fabiola city’s adventurer guild

headquarters located at the highway before the royal capital. Regarding the content, it's written that the lord who is a Cres-Cent'luna Federation noble is currently visiting incognito to have a clandestine meeting with Amitia Kingdom's nobles. Hence, it's been requested to collaborate, and proceed behind the scenes so that there will not be an international problem."

"Cres-Cent'luna Federation? That kind of country exists?"

"Yes, it exists. Although this country (Amitia Kingdom) is an independent nation, if I had to say it, then I would say we are under a great amount of pressure from the Gravioul Empire to take opposition against the federation. If the letter was written this way, I don't think the guild and adventurers there would even want to get involved too deeply into this."

"Hmmm, that's really quite a problem. By the way this is just a question, since I could pass through with the guild pass, there's no need for me to request help from adventurers, right?"

If I asked an unfamiliar third party for help, then it could raise the risk of my identity being exposed.

After I said as much, Collard once again heaves a deep, deep sigh. "Your majesty, this is just me thinking something unthinkable, but you don't intend to enter the royal capital on foot, right…?"

"…Is it natural to rent an Emu?"

"Whether it be an emu or a horse, I'm telling you with all my heart that it's unnatural! From your appearance you look like a noble or royal princess, seeing that you want to travel secretly, the natural thing for you to do would be to go by coach and have heavy security!"

Being sputtered hard by him, I said 'Ah indeed….' in consent. This is exactly where I thought that I have to take advantage of this. I wouldn't have realized these things if he didn't tell me after all, I really am lacking.

"If I take a good look, Collard you really focus on the finest details. You will become a good wife."

"Why am I the wife, I'm the one who's in the position to have a wife right!?"

“Aah, if it’s the guild leader, either way of the bride would suit you. Your housework ability is high too.”

Perhaps being conscious of it, the guild leader groaned. “Th-that was, well… even a man, if he’s single till 30 years old he could do something like housework chores…and that goes for you too, your majesty. Things like embroidery are important for a lady, therefore you had better practice it.”

He said it to me sarcastically. Huh? By chance, did he think that I’m not capable of anything besides fighting? If that’s the case, it’s quite a blow to my pride.

“I can do embroidery, sewing, cooking, and washing normally you know?”
For you see, I had to work like a young princess since elementary school, and afterward I did everything since I was living alone… Now that I think about it, not having the feeling of ‘relying on others’ from the start was my biggest flaw.

“With all due respect, frankly, that’s surprising.”

How rude.

“If your majesty has done that, then it’s also natural to have considerable experience with dancing—?”

“I have absolutely no experience with it, but that doesn’t matter, right? Because right now it’s nothing more than a pretense to have a secret talk with the prince, I’ll become a natural wallflower.”

My reply left Collard flabbergasted for a moment, then for some reason he stood up with a changed expression. “Th-this is no laughing matter! Even if you’re participating in this so called ball as a joke it’s more than just mere embarrassment if you can’t dance according to the tune!”

With a flushed face, for some reason he starts to tidy up the desk, the chair, and the table, and then moves them to the corner of the guild leader room.

“Well, that would be embarrassing, but there’s no need for the guild leader to be in such hurry…”

“It’s different when I don’t know about it, but after I know it’s impossible for me as a gentleman to silently let you off!”

Being told with that determined tone, I ask him once again with the figure of strongly pressed down. “Is that the way it is…?”

“That’s the way it is! Well then, your majesty, please rise immediately. We have no time so it will just be the basic steps, let’s start at once!” While saying that, he opened a music box that he brought out from the room’s cabinet and started the music.

“…Err, we’re going to start now, right here?”

“Of course! I already said there’s no time, right!? Stand now, and memorize it with your body!”

“Ueehh~…”

The lamp shined inside Arra city’s guild leader’s room very late into the night.

Along with the tone of musical box, there were the sounds of footsteps of people who were moving around violently.

And then—

“Wrong, it’s four beats!”

“Your steps are too quick! Don’t match the music, match your partner!”

“Taptatatap-tap-tap, get it!?”

The guild leader’s angry voice and the voice of a girl responding on the verge of tears resounded all through the night. Afterwards it became a rumor for quite a while.

Suplementary – Power Balance of the World

The shape of the Continent (It doesn't have any specific name and is only called the 'continent') is roughly shaped like a 'hippopotamus facing the left side'. The head part is the continent's western region, the upper half of its body is the middle continent, and the lower half part is the continent's eastern region.

In terms of culture it's usually seen as western region > eastern region > middle region.

The reason is the largest religion in the continent, 'Eon's Sacred Teaching', has a doctrine of 'Every race other than humans like demi-humans and beastmen are born bearing sins and are criminals, they're existences inferior to humans' as their basis, and with that they're showing off the vast territory human countries occupy.

In actuality, every region has its own unique culture, so it can't be said which one is better.

Moreover, in the continent there are more than 60 countries (There're also other countries, archipelago nations, or even unconfirmed continents outside of the 'continent').

One of them, boasting the largest area is Cres Cent'luna Federation which occupies the lower half of the middle continent. However because they made cooperative policies towards the demi-humans and demi-human countries they received oppression from Eon's Sacred Teaching and ended as up nothing more than a group gathering. Now since it's hard for them to even cooperate, many of them have been absorbed into the several empires surrounding it.

The representative of the Federation is called the 'president'. It's not a hereditary position but is selected from each nation's representative, and is a lifetime honorary position.

The second most powerful one is Graviol Empire which rules the continent's eastern region up to the top edge of the middle continent's vicinity (and it also has detached land which is part of western region).

As a country where the highest authority lies with the emperor, sometimes there are disputes with the surrounding countries.

However even though the former emperor had the authority which is close to a perfect monarchy, the current country is way too vast and there are some parts which the emperor's control doesn't reach. Seeing this gap, there are some actions which are unclear whether it's the will of the emperor or not.

As they put effort into diplomacy and foreign trade, they create favourable connections toward other countries especially from the western region.

The third and the last powerful country is the Holy Kingdom of Eon.

Situated at middle of the continent and as its name indicates, it is the religious country of Eon's Sacred Teachings. A religious country where every citizen is part of the religious organisation.

Their territory is not that vast, but as the largest religion they have extremely powerful influence in many countries. Furthermore, because of [[Crusade]], a magic that can be used by high level clergyman (though they call it 'a miracle from God') that allows them to manipulate all religious member into wicked soldiers, every country is on guard against them.

And because of their doctrine 'the family of the sinner must also die to repay the sin', in the past strife between them and demi-human countries or other countries which have relations to it, they are often accompanied with massive killings. That's why their relationship with the Cres Cent'luna Federation is the worst.

Diplomatic relations since the beginning were nothing more than a distribution of goods.

Even though their representative is [[Great Pope]] who is chosen by the oracle, it's nothing more than figurehead, while in reality the country's management is handled by a judicial panel consisting of people with the court ranking of archbishop or higher.

It is an unsociable country, and almost never tries to interact with other countries actively.

Amitia is one of sixteen countries existing in western region, in terms of

territory area it is number 7, in terms of agricultural exports it is number 1, and in terms of national power it placed around 5.

Its capital is Caldia, but since it has bad access the population is only number 3(The 1 is the trade port city, Kidou, the 2nd is in the central trading route city, Arra).

In term of culture it's pretty high for this world's standard, but in general the country is made up of peaceful idiots. After a few decades there has been no advancement in either cultural or magic inventions.

Their representative is a king, but the aristocrats from House of Nobles have enough influence to control the decisions, in short the king is nothing but decoration. (This is also true in various kingdoms in the continent)

The current king has 6 sons and 5 daughters, almost all—king included—have personalities that do neither harm nor good except the third prince Asil Cloud (and his little sister, Angelica Iris), who has real achievements, ability, outward appearance, superior personality, and has earned the enthusiastic support of the citizens and part of the military.

By the way, the reason Hiyuki chose this country is none other than because 'it has a lot of greenery and seemed peaceful'.

Episode 3 – The Pair of Princesses Meet

Amitia Kingdom is a nation with mid-sized territory (more precisely, the size is about the same as all of the neighbors combined excluding the three big and powerful nations which are the Empire, the Federation and the Holy Kingdom) on the western part of the continent. The soil is fertile, and the climate is warm, which makes agriculture and stock farming prosperous. The kingdom boasts a harvest which is several times higher than the domestic consumption rate. They are also proud of being the largest exporter of agricultural products in their region. Therefore, it's obvious that Amitia Kingdom is the kitchen of the western part of continent.

Once upon a time, aggressive wars with the aim of taking the kingdom's rich and prosperous land took place, but due to diplomacy and political maneuvering with the neighboring countries, there has been nothing more than brief skirmishes for 80 years, and in that time the kingdom never had to experience a full-scale war. Excluding the damage from monster outbreaks, it's not an exaggeration to say that the kingdom right now is enjoying peace and harmony.

Tonight, at an opera house located in Caldia, the royal capital of Amitia Kingdom, nobles that were dressed up and wealthy people were gathering together in a masquerade ball meeting.

Originally, the masquerade ball was a meeting for royalty, but the prestige was lowered in accordance with the prolonged peace and harmony. Currently, it has spread to the general public, and is even being held at a theater. Although, the only ones who can participate are people who have enough fortune and social status.

The participants are from various places, from the nobles on the top to the upstart merchants on the bottom. However, once in a while there are incognito royalty and foreign nobles participating. It's common for men and women who participate to look into each other's eyes, attempting to guess the origin of their partner and enjoying themselves while dancing and chatting.

However, that usual atmosphere was easily smashed to pieces. Today, there

was a pair, a master and her attendant, who showed nothing but a terrific aura.

Just by standing there, the woman exudes a transcendental presence.

With just a glimpse, she's a girl who perhaps is in the first half of her teens from how she looks. She wore a costume which definitely needed an absurd amount of effort, time, and money to make. It was a black drape dress with a fitting design from her upper body to the waist, emphasizing her lower back, turning into her thin waist below, and then extending in a flare. Red rose corsages, which could be mistaken as real roses, were arranged everywhere. A red devil mask hid her face, so there was no choice but to imagine what lay behind it. However, her bewitching hair that extended to her waist, the entrancing skin without a single mole, and her pure face which could be imagined from the line below her cheek which was beautiful…There no choice but to lament a sigh, a really living work of art she is.

And then the attendant behind her looked to be a woman around 17-18 years old who wore a light blue long torso dress, with dazzling platinum blonde hair and flawless skin. A white mask hid her face from the top of her nose upward, but it could be imagined that her face was also peerless. Therefore, she must surely be a beautiful woman.

Because of how these two women are, they captured the attention of everyone in the hall the moment they entered, but they were way beyond an unobtainable prize. They weren't just jewelry, or even superb first class goods. These two were on the level of a national treasure. From all appearances, they are a princess and an attendant from a powerful mighty country who participated incognito. Everyone is gazing from a distance surrounding them, altogether whispering and speculating about who they might be, but not a single person yet dared to recklessly greet them.

◆◇◆◇

"…What a surprise, this masquerade ball is more tedious than I thought."

I thought it was going to be splendid as they would use magic lights, but it turned out there were traditional chandelier lights placed under the dancing pairs, making the entire area dim (well it's not a problem for my vampire princess eyes though), I feel like the people were dancing ghosts in a haunted house.

Mikoto, who was looking for agreement, faintly tilted her head and wondered. As you would expect, currently her seraph wings were hidden.
“I guess these are their standards? Their so called “dance” is essentially a public pleasure for men and women after all.”

“It seems so.”

Within the thick darkness, untouched by the chandelier’s light, I saw several men and women performing indecent acts without any shame (I won’t clearly tell how it is though, that sort of thing happens in a special room!). I’m regretting that I came here hurriedly.

How should I put it, when exactly will my main dance partner, the third prince, come? By any chance, did he not notice me? Since I also don’t know his appearance, but unexpectedly I’m standing out so there’s a possibility that he would notice me, or maybe I wonder if it’s because I’m too plain?

“…Geez, even though I already had dance training for an entire night.”

“Do you want to dance, princess?” Mikoto tilted her head curiously.

“I don’t mean that sort of thing. I’m a frugal person so I like to have it be useful, I feel like I’m wasting something if I don’t use it.”

“Is that so? At any rate, he’s really rude isn’t he, to call out and then make you wait.”

“Well, it’s not like there was any specified time to meet or anything… Ah, Mikoto. When that prince arrives late, don’t suddenly start quarreling with him, okay?”

If we abruptly showed him such rudeness, even peaceful talks won’t be peaceful anymore. With me saying so, Mikoto gave a regrettable sigh.

“There’s no way this mere serf would disregard the princess’s feelings and do such an impudent act in the absence of Tengai-dono. –In the first place, I believe that I’ve already been together with princess for hundreds of years right?”

Nah, to say ‘hundreds of years’…isn’t actually closer to three to four years at most?

“Well, since it is your instructions, I shall bear that in mind and hesitate for a

moment before punishing that insolent fellow…”
No, you must absolutely hesitate!

It’s no good. Even seeing that Mikoto here is the most sane one out of the bunch, she still has that fighting mindset.

“…By the way.” Mikoto takes a glimpse of my face –or more accurately, my mask. “Princess, do you like that mask that much? In the castle town, there was a person with a very similar mask in the ramen shop, did you hear anything about that?”

“I-I wonder who that is…?”

“Who knows? Well it’s probably an unfounded rumor.”

“Th-that’s right.”
Did my secret get exposed?

Then, I sensed the small steps of a blond haired girl who wore a pink dress and was similar in height to me, come before me. She held both sides of her tiered skirt with her hands tenderly, and performed a curtsy different from my fake one(the greeting performed by putting one foot behind you and bending the other foot).

“Good evening lady, what a nice dress that is.”

“Good evening, same goes for you. Your attire is also very sweet. It’s very well matched.” For the time being, I replied to her with a similar greeting, and added more words in a formal tone.

Then, she stared fixedly at my face (her face was hidden because of her mask, but her pupils are blue), and asked me with a curious appearance.

“By the way, there’s something on my mind. I don’t think a lovely lady such as yourself matches well with this scary mask, does it have some special meaning?”

Mikoto in the back also nodded and said “I agree”. …Ugh, my mask doesn’t have a good reputation, even though it was a rare gacha item.

“Talking about meaning …Actually, I’m having a rendezvous here with somebody today ,and I had to use something that could be easily recognized.”
Since I am the princess of a demon country, with this sort of mask it should be

easy to recognize. That was the plan I came up with and is why I chose it.

“Oh my! Did bro…err, that person tell you such an outrageous thing?!”

“Ah, not at all. This was my own decision. The other party told me the place and time, but didn’t specify the attire or the sign, so I thought about using this to make it easy for him to know. At any rate, my apologies for being such a country bumpkin.”

“That’s not true at all. I was just simply thinking it was a bit strange. Nonetheless, the other party is rude, isn’t he? Inviting you one-sidedly without specifying the crucial information.”

My mouth relaxed, with the girl complaining in my place.

“Yes he is, therefore I was considering if I should leave my seat soon.”

“Is that so…” she said while keeping her head inclined, “Umm, in that case, would it be acceptable for you to talk with me in a separate room?”

“Huh?” I said while reflexively looking back at the girl’s eyes.

“Actually I was brought by my big brother, but there is no one here who close to my age so it’s a bit boring. Because of that I spontaneously greeted you, but your story has piqued my interest all of sudden. I absolutely want to hear your story more, pretty please?” She appealed with an embarrassed gesture, but her eyes were unreasonably glittering.

…Ugh, I’m bad at this. It’s like a natural thing for someone who can’t read the atmosphere to take up my pace. It could just be my imagination, but I feel I’ve been in this situation before…

“W-well, if it’s just a bit…” Before I noticed it, I was already giving her a nod. Oh no, what I am doing?

“I’m so happy! Um, it’s impolite but I wonder, what might your age be? As for me, I’m twelve years old.”

“Err, I’m more or less thirteen years old.”
Since that’s the setting!

“Oh my, then I was one year under you. —Um, is it okay for me to call you Onee-sama?” The girl asked nervously.

So dreadfully cute… what is this living thing?

“Su-sure, if you wish.” I couldn’t go against her.

“Then, Onee-sama, there’s a seperate room that is rented out in that direction, please come. Feel free to bring your attendant too.”

“…Is this okay?” Mikoto asked for confirmation in a low voice, then I replied to her in half despair.

“It’s okay. It’s the stupid prince’s fault for coming late anyway. I will come back later after loitering around there.”

‘I understand’ Mikoto nodded. I was literally pulled by the girl’s hand, and she brought me to a room at the far back of the row of private rooms on the second floor.

Then the girl lightly knocked on the room’s door and spoke, “Onii-sama, this is Angelica. I brought the guest.”

‘Aah, come in!’

A young man’s voice invited us to enter the room.

“….!?”

Mikoto and I took two to three steps back due to our precautionary instincts.

The girl turned in our direction and took off her mask and revealed her cute face. She had a fluffy atmosphere like a sweet. Then, once again she made a very deep greeting.

“I am deeply sorry for deceiving you with my form, Onee-sama. I’ll greet you once again. My name is Angelica Iris Amitia, the Amitia Kingdom’s fourth princess. The younger sister of my foolish brother born from the same mother, Ashyl Cloud Amitia the third prince of the Amitia Kingdom.”

Before the girl who said that and smiled cheerfully, Mikoto and I reflexively looked at each other, and wondered how we should respond.

Episode 4 – The Heroic Prince

I was standing with a very unpleasant face in front of the prince who was a rumored hero.

Before I came into the room, I had taken off my mask so we all revealed our faces, but… how should I put it… The prince's little sister, Angelica, and his attendant, a black haired young man, showed their admiration with a 'Whoa…' as they saw my face for the first time. Well, I could understand that. Everyone usually had similar reactions.

Then, we both stared at each other sharply, appraising each other. It was only natural since we were both in the same position.

However, what in the world is this gaze?! It feels like my skin has been exposed, and that there are slugs crawling all over, licking the side of my breasts and around my waist. What is this unpleasant feeling!?

It's often said that a woman instantly notices when a man stares at her breasts, even a little. Never in all my days had I understood that meaning like today!

"…Onii-sama. It is impolite to stare at a lady so much."

Hearing Angelica's warning, the prince said "Oops…" and finally turned his gaze away and skillfully went down on one knee.

"Forgive my discourtesy, your majesty. I am the third prince of the Amitia Kingdom, Ashyl Cloud Amitia. It is an honor for me to have you spend your precious time here today."

After saying so, he took the back of hand like it was the natural thing to do, and kissed it. …S-so fast, I didn't even have a time to prepare myself.

Mikoto twitched and in an instant raised her eyebrow, 『Can I kill him?』, she appealed by gazing at me, but I silently replied 『No, this is a normal greeting for royalty and nobles!』 which somehow stopped her.

"I am the sovereign of the demon kingdom, Imperial Crimson, Hiyuki the

Graceful Lady of the Sky. Today I am visiting as per your invitation.” I made my self-introduction, thinking that it’s better to give a proper long name for the time being and use my nickname later.

After that, we each introduced our attendants, mine is Mikoto, and his is Sir Carlos, a black haired young man who has a cold atmosphere, and then we sat in our seats. I’m pretty much like a king which means my social status is higher, therefore I sat in the seat of honor, and Ashyl sat on the lesser sofa together with Angelica next to him. Lastly, each attendant stood behind their respective master.

“Nevertheless”. Prince Ashyl just sat and stared at my face which was right in front of him, “I heard the rumors that said that your majesty Hiyuki is a beauty, but it turns out you are a peerless beauty who would make even the moon blush.” He gave me high praise with unrestrained emotion, then he suddenly turned serious and timidly asked me a question. “—To be honest, I do not believe there is anyone in this world who could match your majesty. Is this not some kind of transformation spell?”

“My figure is what you see, unfortunately I don’t possess such an spell. —So then, your highness, please call me ‘Hiyuki’ or ‘Princess’, as I am accustomed to being called in that way.”

The three people sighed in relief after I said so.

“That’s right! Then, from now on I can call you ‘Onee-sama’, right, Hiyuki-sama?”

Replying to Angelica’s lively voice, there is no other choice but for me to say “Sure, if it suits Angelica-sama”, and smile awkwardly, giving her a nod. I really can’t reject her…

Even so, it’s Onee-sama… Onee-sama …an elder sister! I feel like I’m hearing a high pitched scraping noise of something eroding my almost dissipated male dignity or my proof of existence. (In the first place, with Tengai washing my body on the first day, putting on bra and panties, and going to the bathroom, almost 90% had already disappeared)
(ED Note: What? What male dignity?)

“Onee-sama?”

Angelica nodded enthusiastically at her brother's question.

"I asked her before! Because when talking with Hiyuki-sama, she really gives off an 'Onee-sama' feeling!"

O-onee-sama feeling—. I wonder if with this my remaining dignity is finally gone?

"…Hmm, Onee-sama huh? —Hiyuki-hime." Perhaps facing a problem, Prince Ashyl ponders deeply, then looks at me with serious eerie look.

"What is it?"

"I…no, will you marry me?"
(TL/ED Note: Here he starts off with 俺 {ore}, but then switches to 私 {watashi}, a more formal way of speech)

—*SLIP!*

Three people excluding Prince Ashyl and Angelica all fell over.

"Oh my! Onii-sama, that's a great idea! In that case, I could even openly call her 'Onee-sama' as my sister in law!"

No-no! Even the person himself looks so proud, like he just saw a Columbus egg. From where exactly did he jump to get to that senseless conclusion?!

"Are you a fool!?" I reflexively yelled that even against this country's prince.

Then his attendant in the back, Carlos, who normally is supposed to make an unpleasant face when his master is treated poorly, also appears to be nodding twice in agreement. Perhaps this kind of statement is an everyday occurrence for him. This guy also has it hard doesn't he?

"…What exactly is this foolishness?"

A question mark floated on Prince Ashyl's handsome face. It's not an exaggeration to say that he was a high profile handsome man with his mixture of elegance, wild looks ,and his nearly red blonde hair. While thinking about why I had to explain this simple question to him, I gave him the answer in an easy-to-understand manner.

"Fine, here's why. Presently, this country does not acknowledge our country.

Not to mention that our country is composed of demons, and humankind does not approve of demons having the same privileges as humans. Even now there is no legal resolution. With me being a demon, there is no reason for you and I to have a legal marriage with this gap!”

Both Mikoto and Sir Carlos nodded in consent, but the on-topic prince said, “That is where we have to make the people around us accept our love, right? If that’s the case, how about we make one or two children first before the de-facto marriage?” He gave another over the top proposal again.

Rather, a child huh…that means I have to give birth. A kid obviously is not obtained from a pumpkin field after being carried by a stork. What has to be done, I have to bear with trying to make a baby with this prince every night…Yes, that’s impossible.

As expected, my slightly remaining dignity is holding out, and my strong physiological rejection was showing.

“Unfortunately, I intend to keep my body pure until marriage, therefore I cannot accept that idea.”

I reject him softly and Angelica also nodded vehemently, agreeing with me. “That’s right. Onii-sama, you were too rash in proposing marriage!”

“—Or more precisely, I believe you were already too rash when you offered me the marriage just 5 minutes after we met.” I added to her words with an ‘Are you stupid?’ tone.

“If you’re telling me that, I don’t have anything to say back, but you…ah, it’s okay, right? Is my way of speaking a bit rough? You were charming me so much.I believed that it was a once in a lifetime fateful encounter, so I thought it wouldn’t matter.”
(TL/ED Note: Now he switches back to 俺 {ore}, which is more masculine and less polite, less like royalty)

Even though I was told earnestly with a passionate gaze, and even though I was confessed to by this sordid man, who appears to have cute child-like side like Joey on occasion, but has a height exceeding 180cm with a thick chest relative to his age and emitting male hormones from his entire body, my heart isn’t throbbing at all.

“Onee-sama, maybe it is reasonable to not believe something that comes up so suddenly, but it is the first time I have seen my brother become so serious for someone. To strengthen my point, my brother surprisingly gets approached by a lot of women. Also, he gets marriage proposals often regardless of whether it is within the country or outside, but he rejects them all. It is the first time my brother has proposed to someone on his own. By no means is it just a temporary feeling, so with that would you please believe in it and accept his proposal?”

I was also appealed to by Angelica, passionately. Hmm, well it’s not that I don’t believe it. But somewhere in her speech, I got that ‘I don’t want to believe it’ feeling.

“—Be that as it may, your highness. Picking her majesty Hiyuki as a wife is impossible in reality.” Carlos who kept silent until now, opened his mouth.

“For example, even if your highness manages to earn the consent of your royalty’s origin, the house of nobles won’t approve it. On the contrary, they will take advantage of it and disinherit your highness as a traitor prince who sold his soul to a demon. —Or perhaps I should say, that would also happen if this conversation here were to leak out.”

Ah—, well, that’s true if I think about it normally. Yes, the flow of this conversation is kind of moving into a more serious discussion.

“House of nobles, huh? Those guys just keep hindering me all the time.”
With that, Prince Ashyl momentarily held a look that seemed as sharp as a sword’s edge.

Afterwards, he corrected his posture and turned toward me again. “—Which reminds me, my invitation was originally about this one issue. Hiyuki-hime, weren’t you contacted by the house of nobles?”

Hearing that, I shrugged my shoulders. “There was a letter. Besides the prince’s passionate letter, the content was ‘All of your things are mine, so present everything you have’.”

“Hmm, that’s really like what those guys would say. Then, Hiyuki-Hime, how will you respond to it?”

“That would be, invading the capital with an army and massacring anyone

resisting, along with this country's higher ups, of course? —Ah, except you guys, the act of killing someone with good will is an unjust thing. Well, that is only as long as they are not opposing me."

My words made Angelica and Carlos hold their breath.

"Massacring those who opposed you would be understandable, but the higher ups too? I think that's unreasonably excessive." Klang! Spontaneously, Sir Carlos who was criticizing me with such a tone was blown away together with a sound of broken metal, then his body crashed into the wall and made thundering sound.

"Really, such an unexpected person! Who permitted the likes of a servant such as yourself to speak directly to the princess?" Mikoto raised her beautiful eyebrow and spit out her words while holding her favorite holy staff which, unknown to the rest of us, she had retrieved.

From his point of view, prince Ashyl was standing up and before he knew it, he was looking at his hand which held a broken sword.

That moment, the sword stopped Mikoto's blow that was supposed to snatch Sir Carlos's soul. Understanding that Ashyl's protection can't be penetrated, Mikoto instantly moved her legs to kick Sir Carlos out of her reach while simultaneously breaking Ashyl's sword into pieces in a few short moments. No one but Mikoto and I saw it.

Of course, Angelica didn't understand the situation. She just nervously compared her brother and Sir Carlos who held still, leaning against the wall and breathing roughly.

"Sorry, my subordinate's impolite acts are my responsibility. I will apologize again and again. However, he is my important friend. Somehow would you at least please spare his life?"

Saying so, Prince Ashyl went down on both of his knees, bowed his head, and apologized right there.

"…Yo-your highness…" Looking at his figure, Sir Carlos was at a loss for words, he then bit his lips and lowered his face."

"My utterance was a concern about Prince Ashyl's and Princess Angelica's

well-being, but it looks like it seemed rude. Please disregard it.” Then I signaled to Mikoto with my eyes, she reluctantly pointed her holy staff towards the collapsed Sir Carlos.

She’s making the finishing blow?! Angelica left her seat in panic, but it seems Prince Ashyl had predicted what would happen. He lightly lowered his head in thanks.

“…You better give your thanks to the Princess generosity.” Healing light wrapped around Sir Carlos’s whole body.

…Th-that’s good. If it was Tengai or Utsuho, they would absolutely kill him without any mercy.

Episode 5 – Mask Play

"My sincerest apologies."

Prince Ashyl bowed once again—
"That is enough already. Please return to your seat, prince …Or rather, a man should not carelessly lower his head." I softly gave him my candid advice. Seeing him bow to me so much is quite unpleasant.

"Indeed. For someone who stands on the top, it makes you question their ability." Mikoto said in a superior tone as if 'The Princess does not bow before anyone', but actually just two or three day ago I also bowed before Guild Leader Collard.

—Oh no, if that gets leaked out I'm gonna die…Collard, geez!

I quietly averted my eyes from Mikoto.

It seems that the healing spell was effective because Carlos began to rise unsteadily, and bowed his head where he stood.

"I have done something impolite. —It's inexcusable for me, your highness."

"Don't mind it, instead, give your thanks to her majesty, Hiyuki." Saying so, Prince Ashyl loaned his shoulder to Sir Carlos, and they stood up together.

"Your relationship is surprisingly good, isn't it?"

"To tell you the truth, he is my foster brother. At the time we were born, as babies we had our first bath together…that's how our relationship is. In addition I always troubled him every time I did something absurd." Prince Ashyl smiled like an innocent child. On the contrary, Sir Carlos turned his face away, unable to bear his embarrassment.

I see, so this is what's called a bromance? I don't have any friends so I don't understand it very well.

Once again, Prince Ashyl sat on his seat and Sir Carlos stood behind him. Angelica turned her head towards Sir Carlos in worry, but he lightly shook his

head and showed her that he was all right. “By the way, continuing the middle of our conversation, I wish for Princess Hiyuki to postpone the invasion of the royal capital.”

Responding to Prince Ashyl’s words, I made a pondering gesture and a “Hmm” sound while cocking my head in puzzlement. “Well, there is currently no official notice or ultimatum, so presently an immediate outbreak of war should not happen. But tell me, why do you think it is better that I wait?”

” —The wind’s direction is changing.” After saying that, Prince Ashyl explained the current situation within the kingdom.

Amitia Kingdom which calls itself a ‘kingdom’ doesn’t have an absolute monarchy. The most influential nobles in the house of nobles parliament are currently trying their best to keep complete control.

The present king was by no means stupid, but it can’t be said that he was clever either since essentially he was a puppet of the parliament.

With such conditions, part of the military’s personnel, nobles, and influential people who supported Prince Ashyl or who were part of royalty revival faction were dissatisfied. They secretly conducted preparations to overthrow the house of nobles parliament.

However, against the overwhelming numbers within the parliament, the prince’s faction stood powerless. Therefore, the faction had been making preparations for many years.

“And thereupon, an uproar suddenly happened in Arra City and the demon kingdom Imperial Crimson displayed their mighty existence. All the people who have suffered from the nobles’ oppression, as well as nobles and influential people who kept their neutrality up until now became aware of the need to join hands. With that, our voice to start a movement and bring a new doctrine to this stagnant country was heard, and so our movements suddenly became more active.”

I see. In short, we became a black ship that made contact for the first time with this country. (TL: Hey! Enjoy your history lesson https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Ships)

“In other words, you want us to cooperate to carry out a coup d’état and overthrow the house of nobles?”

Well, generally, even when something like a coup d’état happens, it’s merely a change of leaders and the present condition will not change, but with this prince’s ability, perhaps the conditions could became considerably better than they are now.

However, after hearing the question of mine, Prince Ashyl shook his head. “No, our movement is definitely to defeat the current rotten nobles who are controlling the government, but we don’t necessarily want to shed blood.”

“——?”

“Does Princess Hiyuki know of the concept of a ‘Democracy’?” Prince Ashyl said it with glittering eyes like he was displaying a valuable treasured item.

“…”

On contrary however, my whole body in an instant calmed down as I started to lose interest.

“We have constructed a basic idea where the likes of royalty would be just a decoration like what it has been up until now —Nah, it’s not gonna be a problem, even without them. There will be none of the nobles that govern the people through blood lineage. People will manage the country with their own ideals. That’s what this grass roots movement is. Now, the seeds have already been sown. All that is left is to raise and nurture the buds. That is what I must do for the sake of building a better country.”

Although Prince Ashyl voiced his thoughts strongly, partway through I was only half-listening to it. I started thinking about it in my mind.

Prince Ashyl, I already know of the future outcome of your ideal. It certainly might be more preferable than the current noble system. Still, you definitely are royalty after all. Even though you carry such lofty ideals, humans are rotten, there are still some that can’t be saved and should die.

“Therefore we ask that you give us some time. With that time, first we would establish a lower house parliament to take up opposition against the house of nobles’ parliament, and then we intend to steadily remove their political power.

With the current conditions we will certainly receive the support of the masses. Later, we want to ask you for a formal diplomatic relationship with us. To sum it up, that's how it is."

"…Well I am okay with waiting, but realistically, is that honestly something that could be accomplished in a few days? During that time, my country could also receive the same letter officially. In that situation, even I did not plan to restrain my country's citizens." But to be more accurate, I can't restrain my country's citizens.

"We definitely can. For that reason my comrades and I will do the best we can. Well, if by some chance we manage to fail and war breaks out with your country, I will quickly take Angelica and my allies to defect to your country. Afterwards, what Princess Hiyuki would do with the house of nobles parliament is none of my concern." Honestly, it didn't seem that easy, however Prince Ashyl still laughed fearlessly.

"I understand. So for the brief time while you prepare, I shall monitor quietly. —And also, here…"

I took out a sword from my back pocket and placed it on the table. At the look in Prince Ashyl's eyes which screamed 'Can I touch it?', I gave him a nod.

"…Hmm this is a fine sword. I can feel magical power from inside of it, is this some kind of magic sword?"

"It is called a 'Wind Sword', it possesses the wind attribute so it is lighter and can be handled more nimbly than a normal sword. —Well, that is the extent of the sword, so I will give it as a replacement for the sword which my attendant broke some time ago."

"…Wha", Sir Carlos widely opened his eyes in surprise.

By the way for your information, this sword is not exactly just a 'Wind Sword', it is a 'Wind Sword +3'. The additional effect is that it increases your AGI by 18%.

Well, to be frank, this sword could be made with basic weapon forging, and when I viewed the stallholder in my castle town (Originally it was an NPC stall, but as of now, it's obvious that a living dwarf built it), there was a mountain of similar elemental equipment like this, but in this world it seems that this type of

magic sword almost never appears on the market, so it's natural to be surprised.

Prince Ashyl seemed to be surprised as well, but he instantly replaced the broken sword on his back with a delighted look on his face.

"I am grateful for this sword. This sword from you will be my charm. With this, for the sake of my rose colored marriage with Princess Hiyuki, I shall defeat those nobles at any cost."

"Stop thinking about that marriage thing already! How should I put it, even though I accepted Prince Ashyl's invitation right now, it's only because I want to see the ability of an S rank, you know?"

"Err, that's a bit… I beg your pardon, but there's no way I could win if we fought seriously. Well, if it's purely sword technique, that could be interesting." Even though he said it like that, his eyes said that he wouldn't lose.

"Hmm, shall we try?"

"I really want to, but now is not the time. Would you please wait until this matter is finished?" He shook his head in great disappointment. This prince, he really is a military man.

"…*Sigh*, it cannot be helped then." After I said that, the malicious air was gone, is this where we should part ways? So I thought and began to stand, thereupon I was halted by Prince Ashyl.

"Actually until this matter is finished, it was scheduled that Angelica will be sheltered, under pretext of a vacation, in the royal family resting villa at Fulvia Lake on the outskirts of the royal capital. So Princess Hiyuki, if you have time, please come by and visit."

Hmm, in other words, preparations in case his movement manages to fail, is it?

Angelica, without considering those circumstances at all, grasped and shook both of my hands with a pure smile. "How fantastic! Onee-sama, we must absolutely go there together!"

For the time being, I give her a nod properly.

"At Fulvia Lake the water is so clear. Furthermore there's a hot spring gushing out near it, and there is a hot spring in the villa too! Onee-sama, let's soak in hot

spring together!”

Hot spring…bathing together…
I greatly regret that I made a nod.

“Well then, let’s prepare the return coach —Carlos, I entrust it to you.”

“—Yes.” Sir Carlos put on his mask for the masquerade ball and left the room.

Seeing Carlos, I casually asked the prince a question on my mind. “Come to think of it, weren’t we supposed to meet in the masquerade hall?”

That question for some reason made Prince Ashyl look sullen.

“At first I planned to do so, but Princess Hiyuki, what was with that mask? If it makes you stand out that much, then no one would address you.”

“……” What’s with this mask’s bad reputation?

“It’s a disaster, your highness! The military police have surrounded the building; they said that rebel have come in here. They’re going to check the identity of every participant!” At the doorway Sir Carlos returned, panting heavily.

Prince Ashyl and I reflexively looked at each other. It seems both of us have memories of being treated as a ‘rebel’.

“…It appears that this was bound to happen eventually.” Prince Ashyl gave a sigh and stood up.

“So what shall happen to us?”

“Nothing will happen. I am going to try this sword and enjoy dancing to the tune; it’s the long-awaited masquerade ball after all.” While clapping his sword handle, Prince Ashyl put on a white mask.

“Is that so, then I would like to be your dance partner. …Mikoto, I entrust Angelica to you.” I put on my mask, that somewhat had a bad reputation, and drew a life-force enhanced ‘Water Sword +2’ from my back pocket. The Sinner of Rose {Gilles de Rais} is too conspicuous and also overkill, so it would be hard to go easy on my opponents. With that, I followed him.

“Affirmative, princess.” Mikoto who put on the same mask, helped Angelica up

while covering for her. While doing so, Angelica put on her mask that she was wearing back then.

“—Now, shall we dance, princess?”

“Treat me gently, prince.”

Coming out to the hallway, we exchanged expressions with each other as if we really were going to dance afterwards.

Episode 6 – Chastise Blade Under the Moonlight

Silence fell toward the interior of the carriage.

After that, the military soldiers who stood in their way—were in reality assassins sent by the House of Nobles, full of killing intent and even readying their blades. As they saw the prince Ashyl, “He’s here! The traitor Ashyl! Kill him!”

“If we kill him, we can have any reward we want!”

“Surround him! Take the woman as a hostage!!”

They came to attack while shouting those kinds of things.

Well, the prince is playing dumb though,

“Prince? Who is that? I am the mysterious masked knight who is grieving for this country!”

Saying something like that, he’s in high spirits.

Then, I thoughtlessly joined this entertainment.

“Similarly, mysterious swordswoman who happen to pass by, Mask The Rose, appeared! Those who hold no regard toward their own life, feel free to come at me!”

I said it in heat of the moment and even take a pose.

…well. I am reflecting on that right now.

And, cooperating with Prince Ashyl, we easily break through from enemy territory while continuing to wear our masks, escaping from the opera house.

Immediately Sir Carlos carried Angelica in his arms and as if he's flying he jumped into the carriage he drove. I commanded Mikoto to hold back our pursuers—well the person herself seems delighted as she piled up frustration from meeting with the prince—while she confronted our pursuers (or more accurately, slaughtered them), we quickly escaped from the royal capital.

…Sometimes I can see flashes or hear exploding sounds from behind, perhaps someone is playing with fireworks or something.

By the way, our destination is as planed before, a place where royal family sanatorium existed—Fulvia Lakes.

Since we can't get a change of horses at night, midway we moved at an extremely slow pace. However according to Prince Ashyl, we will most likely arrive at midnight.

Also, while we escaped from the royal capital, since there is only one barrier pass certificate and I keep it with me, we planed have Mikoto take a detour. She would fly until the barrier most likely didn't reach anymore and then regroup with us. Since she was also told the general direction we were headed, and at certain distance a master and pet can check each other's locations, I think this is the best option.

Well, for how Mikoto should escape, if by some chance the barrier also covered the sky, for Mikoto it is nothing more than a soap bubble so it'll pose no threat anyway. And since we already escaped, even though there's uproar because of her, it has nothing to do with us.

Then, as we took a breather, we took off our masks and kept silent—Since Angelica received a shock from the attack, Prince Ashyl hugged her and tried to calm her down, as I sat on the opposite side inside the carriage, staring at them. Prince Ashyl, who couldn't stand the silence and my stare anymore, shrugged his shoulder jokingly.

"What is it, Princess Hiyuki. That grim look will spoil your lovely face."

"…around 3 to 7 right"

"—yes?"

“The number enemy we defeated before we entered the carriage. You took quite the lead. “No no, that’s impossible. I think it’s around the same, well, as my neck being targeted, there might be 2 or 3 difference, perhaps. …eh, hasn’t Princess Hiyuki’s tone changed?”

“I’m the one defeated here. Even if I take a big loss 4 to 6 it’s still fine, but what was that? Even though I was frantically killing, you who were next to me, still has the composure to hold back so they won’t be killed? –Yet, you still took quite the lead of 3 to 7.”“Well, I don’t think it’s as much ‘composure’, as well… they are just following the orders of House of Nobles, and they’re still citizens of my country.”

The Prince became troubled and scratched his cheek.

“Hah! I don’t care whether they’re doing it for money or honour. For anyone who is willing to take a life in exchange for those things, I think it’s appropriate to kill them. They chose that kind of job, there’ll no room for pleading. I think it’s better if they disappear from this world. –Moreover, you... didn’t you kill 8 people who came to assassinate you when you were 11 years old?”

“…Yes, at that time I was too focused on protecting Angelica, so I didn’t feel any regret since I protected her.”Then he took a deep breath.

“However, after that I’ve always felt regret afterwards. I’ve shown the young Angelica the ugly side of kill or be killed human relation in this world, and my own weakness. That’s why, I aim to absolutely protect Angelica, gain power to be able to bring goodness to humans in this world, and show its beauty to Angelica.”

I saw no hesitation in his eyes, I keep silent.

Well, it’s not like I’m over-awed or unable to say any words of rebuttal, I just feel like talking to him will be pointless. I understand that our thoughts won’t match—or rather, being told like that, for me who kills humans like cutting daikon near him at the time, that will make me look like a heartless killer right!?

“—as I thought, you’re boring.”

“Well, even if you say so…I’m troubled. How can I fix your mood, Princess?”

Hearing that, I fell into deep thought.

It’s obvious this happy go lucky prince is the source of this fuzzy feeling.

Then let’s ‘talk’ with the way of my country.

“Well, since we are already separated from town and right now there’s no pursuers, and luckily, there’s a wasteland in the direction we heading... It’s a bit dark, but it’s not a problem for us right? Then it’s perfect, how about we get off and have a match?”

Hearing my proposal, Angelica gasps.

Prince Ashyl folded his arm with difficult expression.

“…Isn’t that arrangement for another day?”

“It’s just a match, we don’t have to kill each other. It’s just, I won’t feel relieved without hitting that composed face hard at least once.”

“If it will please you, my lady, how about you hit it here and now, I’m ready to stand one or two punches…will that please you?”“If you said ‘by all means’ and let me hit, won’t that make it seem like it’s a woman’s hysteria? I won’t be satisfied if I can’t hit you under the same condition.”

“I don’t understand the difference, but…I guess I have no choice.”With a resigned face, Prince Ashyl looked out of the window, and commanded the coach, Sir Carlos, to move away from highway and stop there.

***

In desolate land where night wind just passed by.

Angelica and Sir Carlos looked onward with a worried look, but with the only light coming from a lantern on the carriage that was stopped a bit farther away, they might not be able to see what was happening.

“Do you really want to fight in that expensive dress?”

Even though Prince Ashyl said it worriedly, he who stood 5 meters away from me was also still wearing his tailcoat for dancing.

“You don’t have to worry, I’m used to it.

…….

Ermm. I know that I said it myself, but it seems I really got used to this dress, this fluttering skirt, even this breeze.

Or rather, since I reincarnated as Hiyuki, I never wore trousers even once.

…Am I alright? Somehow I became worried about many things.

“Is that so, then I’ll come at you without reservation.”

While saying that, Prince Ashyl grasp ‘Wind Sword’ that I handed over to him.

“—If you fight as it is, this won’t be a decent match. How about getting serious?”

At that moment, Prince Ashyl showed a bitter smile.

“…I’ve been seen through.”

Once again, he fixed his grasp on his sword, and with half closed eyes he manipulated the magic power inside him. Then with an uninterested tone he said something that might be a magic incantation or self hypnosis.

“I am peerless and invincible. There’s no opponent can match my sword. –My —attack will destroy any enemy in front of me!!”

Race: Human (Magic Swordsman)

Name: Ashyl Cloud Amitia

Occupation: Third Prince of Kingdom Amitia/Kingdom Amitia Adventurer (S rank) HP: 21.500-->70.950

MP: 9200-->30.360

“This is…as expected from S rank, in these conditions, it’s near the upper limit of a human.”

Even so, in the end he is still unbranded human.

That said, perhaps I'm making light of him, since his status is similar to that of a player who had no reincarnations yet.

"May I take that as praise?""Yup. Honestly, at first I thought a magic swordsman is a fighter who can use magic at the same time. Now that I know you use magic for body reinforcements, it's quite brave. If you can hit me, I think I'll receive damage."

"If I can hit you?""Yep, if you can hit me. –Well, I don't know what exactly will happen though, perhaps a fatal wound or just something serious, no matter what, when Mikoto catches up she can heal me just fine, so you don't have to hold back."

With a nod, I also grasped 'Water Blade'.

"I see, I feel relieved hearing that. –Then, here I come."

In an instant, from a posture without any fighting spirit, Prince Ashyl shortened the distance between us into zero in one go.

At the same time, a vivid beheading line appeared in this poorly lit place, together with the glitter of steel, he swung his sword down mercilessly to cut me into two.

Interlude 1 – The Demon General

Here is a certain event which occurred in the days prior to Lord Hiyuki's departure, who was adored by the entire population of the Imperial Crimson, towards the royal capital, accompanied by Mikoto.

In this several day period, a restless air was already flowing within the Scarlet Jade castle. However on this particular day, you could call it day X, the tensions had reached its peak. Since the morning, her retainers, especially the men, couldn't keep calm. Instead, they became frenzied and looked suspiciously towards their own colleagues, who had the same goddess known as Hiyuki.

Finally, it reached the point where even the Demon Generals of the Round Table began their discussion using meaningless body language. Mikoto and Utsuho of the Four Evil Heavenly Kings who intended to only watch silently at first, as expected, couldn't ignore it and decided to ask the only one who could end this calamity, the greatest lord, Hiyuki.

I attended the audience room even though I was very-very unwilling because I heard that there was something that the monsters wanted to consult me on. At that place, I found the thirteen Demon Generals already lined up.

Of course everyone knelt down, but they didn't become any smaller. On top of their sizes being different from the original game, some of them constantly change because of their indeterminate forms. Therefore, although I see them frequently, seeing their changing forms from farther away is confusing since I can't differentiate them from their size and it confuses me enough to make me dizzy.

By the way, all the members of the thirteen Demon Generals were level 110-130 dungeon bosses. Compared to the maximum player level of 99, they were really strong (Well practically, their stats rose in accordance with the 0->1->2->3 reincarnation stages that increased the stats of players. At the 3rd stage, they have a befitting unwritten real level of around 250. In the first place they were a group of bosses to match max level players, so it's quite useless to talk about that).

Literally monsters.

Putting it simply, in the case that a mob is the same level as a player, a player can usually solo it. But to solo a boss, a player would want a safety margin of around a 20-30 levels.

So, given that these guys can't be soloed, but had to be beaten the hell out of by a group of players (Because of this I had to ask not only my guild members to help me capture them, but also my acquaintances as well), and assuming I'm soloing against the weakest of them, using the perfect equipment and as many potions as I'd like, can I defeat it by holding out for a few hours? Err…I wonder? Well…for the time being let's see! …but when I'm halfway through, if other mobs interrupt me, I am absolutely dead!!

With those very real risks, and moreover with their 16×16 instant death area of effect attack, they really were opponents who had an extremely bad compatibility with my glass cannon hit and run play style, which shaved their health off little by little.

—Well, there's actually a freak who invalidates this. Among all of maniac, he could completely crush bosses solo, and was granted by an admin, the tittle of 'dokudansenkou (One Man Army)'! As expected, he's my guild member you see!!

…Therefore, I am very much aware of how risky it is to deal with them~.
How much they called themselves my allies, if I took something like a poke to my forehead from them, I'd be gone in one hit.

Substantially, even from their looks they were befitting of dungeon bosses, they were so extravagantly enormous.
The tiniest one had a length of 10 meters (not even overall length!), and the largest ones are up to 50 meters (But as expected, they shrank their bodies since they can't enter the room). Far from a crowd of monsters, by appearances they were a gang of evil gods who appeared to annihilate humanity. Thank you very much, really.

Or perhaps I should say, even the admins did it on purpose as a joke . Those monsters all had the theme of evil gods or devil myths from various parts of the world. Like the Demogorgon, a reptile figure with tentacles and two baboon heads, or Pneeph Taal, a mist that carried tentacles, or Gong Gong, a serpent

with a human face and red hair. Them being here in real life is seriously not funny at all.

Rather, if it's about the Ctulhu myth, my sanity should be whittled down by only seeing them… is my mind all right? Perhaps it's been broken before I even realized it.

For all those reasons, first of all as I enter the room and sit on the seat several levels above the floor, I check around for the emergency exit.

Just behind my seat, there was an enormous door. It was used sometimes for me to exit and enter the room, but to open it, Tengai and Kokuyou used both of their hands to open each side of the door.——When I see the door, the phrase 'Abandon all hope, ye who enter here' comes to mind—— so perhaps, at the time when I'm trying to run away, my physical strength won't make it.

What it comes to are the corridor passages to the left of me, with 3 being in my field of vision.

To get into the nearest one takes no longer than 2 seconds for me escaping by foot, but too bad I am wearing 5cm high heels today.
It's impossible for me to run at full speed with unstable footing. The loss of time from taking off my shoes in order to be bare foot would perhaps be the deciding factor between life and death.
In that case, it would've been great if I had trained to run in high heels before.

As I am thinking about that, one of the thirteen Demon General representatives, Ikaruga, the Umr-at Tawl (A derivation of Yog-Sothot from the Cthulhu myth), a figure with black skin and a veil on his white hair, stepped forward.

"I offer my worship to Hiyuki-sama's presence, our lord worthy of the heavens. We, the thirteen Demon Generals all present here, receive the honor in this chamber."

As he respectfully greeted me, standing in my row was Tengai, Mikoto, myself, Utsuho, Kokuyou— Mikoto opened her mouth.

"Raise your face, you are permitted to talk directly with the princess."

Huh….? I thought this was usually Tengai's duty, but for some reason today the

person himself stood rock still with a big pouting face.

“Well then, with all due respect, we are in a situation where we need to confirm something with the princess. I, as the demon representative, would like to ask.”
His gaze directed from me to my right side, there he saw Tengai and Mikoto.
“Princess, for the upcoming event, you have already given your favor to only one certain person, is this rumor true?”

Daaarn!! If he’s talking about an event at this time, then it has to be about who I’ll take to visit the royal capital tomorrow as my companion.

This time, after receiving advice from Guild Leader Collard, I decided to take Mikoto along. I had notified the person herself and the Four Evil Heavenly Kings, but perhaps it’s reasonable if the other Round Table members don’t feel very happy about that. It’s like I have decided to take Mikoto over them.

As you can see, last time I took Tengai alone to be my companion. The seven Beasts of Calamity were very surprised and uttered their complaints…but well, perhaps it’s a good thing that this matter came up now.

And afterwards, I performed a field survey of the ancient remains (dungeon) at the outskirts of Arra City, taking a holiday from the seven Beasts of Calamity. However as I thought, it’s not good to neglect them, so I dispatched them to repair and reform that place, which had been reduced to broken ruins and crushed by us. —As we captured the first floor, Utsuho whined that it was tiresome, so Kokuyou broke the wall immediately to get to the boss (by the way it’s a five-headed hydra) room on the 10th floor, resulting in this matter—. Therefore, right now they were not inside the castle.
If they were, this uproar would escalate even more.

Even so, how should I deal with these thirteen Demon Generals? This time the one I was looking for was restricted to a ‘Humanoid girl’, so to be honest none of them match that description, so they have to wait their turn.

But frankly, if I tell them and they were to grow violent, I would die.

“……..”
What should I do? So I pondered and then Tengai stepped in, relieving me.

“You have too many foolish suspicions! Your worries are entirely off the mark!”

As Tengai said so, for some reason the thirteen Demon Generals’ lines of sight were loaded with hostility.

“———————!?”

S-scary…..!! The mass of evil god gazes are loaded with the thirst for blood. Being swallowed by that wave, my consciousness seems to be flying away for a few moments.

When I came back to myself, Tengai and thirteen Demon General were having a loud quarrel.

“I told you, that was the blood provision for the princess!!”

“Usually, you don’t have that sloppy face, right?”

“Above all, that was the blood of a medium with high spiritual power! The princess received it gladly so I—”

“Lies! You alone received the princess’s favor right?”

“I said I didn’t receive it, are you listening?”

“…what are they talking about?”

Hearing my question, Mikoto breathed a sigh with all her heart.
“Today is the 14th of February in the demon calendar, it’s Valentine’s Day. After seeing Tengai-dono walk by carrying a box in the morning, beginning from the thirteen Demon Generals, and then males at the castle, they became excited, wondering ‘Will I get chocolate from the princess?’…”

“Good grief, those males. This matter today is developing an idiotic uproar…” Utsuho with a flabbergasted tone, averted her eyes from the loud scene.

……huh?

Valentine’s Day? I was thinking of something completely different… this is the real cause?
Rather, aren’t you guys all evil gods and devils? You became frenzied over this cross exchange event? Isn’t this some kind of mistake??

Greatly perplexed, I went somewhere else as the dispute grew hotter.

Since that was the reason, eventually I got some help from Mikoto and the others to make a massive amount of chocolate and distributed it. Some way or another, the matter ended.

….The return gift contents on White Day next month will be awfully scary though.

Episode 7 – Flash Sword, Skilled Sword

Flash Sword, Skilled Sword

==

I stopped the overhead slash with an identically shaped but differently coloured sword. The arm that received that blow felt numb from its weight, and my whole body felt like it was breaking.

“---Wha?!”

Prince Ashyl is strong. And his current status after receiving the buff and physical strengthening (burst), some of his stats will be able to catch up to mine.

However, since the gap between our base stats is too large, no matter what he still won’t be able to catch up to me.

If we simply fought head to head, there’s no way to overcome that barrier and the fight will quickly become one sided.

That’s why when using the same weapon, in a fight between two swords, I should have been able to overwhelm Prince Ashyl. That was my deduction.

However I can’t do it. I planned to block one attack and react accordingly—yup I did take him lightly, however even with the simple difference in the numerical values of our basic stats, Prince Ashyl is still able to bury that difference with the difference in our sword skill.

The result is, as he increased the pressure on the sword I used to defend even now, it’s clear that if I lose focus, even for an instant, I will fall to my knee.

--this is bad!

This posture is bad. I have to create some distance and return to my original strategy of hit and run.

After my split second decision, I launched a kick that was accompanied by a flutter of my skirt.

It should have been a surprise attack, but it seems Prince Ashyl predicted it

and raised one of his knees to guard.

When our feet clashed, finally the balance of power was broken and using the recoil, I jumped back.

“What lovely underwear. –Personally I prefer it if you don’t wear any, what a pity.”

“I am sorry for betraying your expectations. As you can see, I have bad walking etiquette.”

Perhaps showing his composure, he didn’t pursue but instead, stood there while seeming really disappointed and shaking his head.

By the way, usually when wearing this kind of dress, wearing no underwear is customary. However as a modern person, I wouldn’t want to walk around wearing nothing underneath.

That’s why, the current dress was equipped with something like innerwear, a three in one (underwear with brassier, waist nipper, and garter belt all in one).

“No no no, I too have bad walking etiquette—“

In an instant, Prince Ashyl kicked the ground, which exploded and sent giant earth chunks flying towards me.

At once both of us moved to the left… and the presence I feel from that direction is…!

A feint. Trapped with killing intent coming from all four directions, I hesitated and activated the basic skill ‘jump’, and flew forward into the sky while rotating 2 or 3 times, and got away from that area.

However, the real Ashyl is—right behind me.

When and how?!

Not giving me time to even arrive at an answer, his attack came closing in. Before I landed, Prince Ashyl’s figure appeared and approached me, swiping down with a slash attack.

Since have no choice and must meet the attack, even with my unnatural posture I swang my sword. Blade and blade intertwined, and vivid sparks flew.

Using that force, I got distance between us.

Losing the initiative alone is already bad, but now I can only stop his approaching sword or repel it while continuing to retreat.

…I wonder how to say it, this is…I'm being taken into area where I can't display my real power, and I'm being cornered slowly. This kind of unpleasant fighting style...

I never played war games, but is this what they call 'waiting'?

So boring.

I thought I only wanted to hit him once, but now I think I won't be pleased without adding 2 to 3 more hits onto that.

Using our differences in leg strength I closed our distance in one go, and at the same time sent furious strikes toward the prince.

Diagonal slash toward the shoulder—evaded.

The skill from fencing that lets one return an attack with the flick of a wrist 'Swallow Return'—he bent his upper body backward and evaded that too.

Moreover, even fencing skills that changed trajectory in the air 'Horizontal Flash'—as if drawing the character 'orphan', were repelled.

"—Eei, quickly accept it! Didn't you want to let me hit you!"

"…no way, if I'm struck with those attacks I'll die. Can you please hold back a bit."

"I've been holding back!"

That's because I am on my basic stats, without any buffs. I also didn't use any magic attacks from my Saint job, the sword is also equal, only a bit inferior, and I only use basic player and fencing skills.

That would mean we are fighting under the same conditions, and to fight equally with someone whose level is lower is…not to forget how he continuously cornered me a while ago!

My pride is beyond repair.

"Somehow I feel stupid for holding back. I'll be more serious."

“That’s scary.”

He squinted and acted as if he was trembling in fear, but as I thought, his eyes were not laughing at all.

“Well, even if you die, as long as it’s within 30 minutes I can still resurrect you! It’s only painful at the begin—ning!!”

Fencer Basic Skill ‘Thrust’!

Sword and sword clashing, he parried my thrust—but I’ve also considered it. Using the force, the prince kicked the stone behind him and did a triangle jump.

Facing the prince who is above me, I released my serious skill, Master Fencer Skill ‘Nanaten Kouha’ (Seven Heavens Sword Descend)!

It’s not an illusion nor an after image, the sword tip really splits into seven and attacks the prince at the same time, making it so that he can’t evade.

“Kuh--!!”

He instantly escaped toward the left which was the less dangerous route, while successfully evading three of the swords. However, he can’t evade the other four.

That Prince Ashyl—though I’m not the one to talk—just what kind of reflexes does he have?!

The sword in his hand stopped two, one more was repelled by his reinforced left hand, and the last one—the one in my hand, while he was still in the air, was received by his shoulder in the sword guard where the force would be the weakest!

Blood flowed from the shoulder that was cut, but he was only damaged to that degree.

Although, from my perspective it is identical to presenting his neck.

Half by reflex, I turned the point of my sword, and lunged it to cut his neck, Prince Ashyl tried to guard with his own sword but—it’s too late!

As I’m thinking that I’ve perfectly seized him, the sword in the prince’s hand moved as if it had become bent, and conversely grazed my wrist.

“---gh?!?”

Moreover the sword that became crooked began coming toward me, and I felt I would be unable to deal with it, so I back stepped in full speed.

The backwards force alone let me dig a trench with the tip of my toes, and I successfully moved back 20 meters in distance.

Prince Ashyl faced me, and let out an amazed voice.

“Seriously…you have no limits. Amazing.”

“That’s my line. What was that just now?”

“Well, that’s one of my secret skills ‘Nami no Kazumi’ (Wave of Mist). Though normally it should be able to cut the enemy’s wrist tendon.”

I don’t even need to use heal because at night vampire princess vitality alone will close it. While looking at my wrist which has neither a trace of a wound nor a scar, I let out an astonished sigh.

“…Really, this is why I hate personal battles, since I don’t know what kind unexpected things I will face.”

“Well it is a powerless person’s trick to lets me win. Do you think it’s unfair?”

“Of course not. Since my basic ability in itself is unfair.”

However, even with that vast difference in basic stats, to be able to invalidate it with his pure technique is…it seems I really took him too lightly. Of course with full equipment, buffs, and being able to use magic as I like it won’t be a problem. Conversely, if we’re in the same condition—for example if there’s a sword that can be compared to Sinner of Rose (Gilles De Rais) (I suspect the three big countries might have swords of similar power)—then there is a possibility there are opponents who is able to defeat me.

In actuality, this prince, though I feel bad to say it, is the ‘King of the Hill’ from a middle class country.

If I think like that this is quite a harvest.

Well then, next is…

While thinking that, I felt a familiar presence from the sky, and I can also hear

the noise of several carriages coming closer in the faraway darkness.

“—Princess, I am sorry for making you wait.”

As one would expect, the one who descended from the sky is the six winged seraph, Mikoto.

As Prince Ashyl never saw her current form before, he widened his eyes in surprise. However I ignored it and faced her.

“Good work. Did you deal with the pursuers?”

“Yes. I’ve eliminated everyone back there. However, when I went to confirm from the sky, I saw there was another group of pursuers getting closer. Of course, if Princess desires would you like for me to deal with them as well?”

This kind faithfulness is characteristic of Mikoto.

If I start thinking about the other lot they would probably say, ‘I’ll also deal with them,’ kill them easily, and report it to me after the fact.

“…Pursuers huh…”

Losing the intent to fight, he stored the sword into its scabbard and turned serious.

“It seems so. And it’s just finally getting interesting, what a killjoy.”

I also pointed the tip of my sword toward the ground and languidly put it down.

“Well, I guess it’s impossible to go on. Plus, my body strengthening is also nearing its limits.”

“Hah. Says the one who’s still hiding their trump card. Also, since it’s not dispelled yet, we can continue for a bit longer right? I want to return the favour for the injury just now.”

I said that as I pointed my sword towards him, but Prince Ashyl pointed at the wound on his shoulder, “Even if you say so, I also suffered this stroke of your sword. How about we make today’s match a draw, and continue on another day just as promised?”

With behaviour that showed no eagerness he shrugged his shoulders.

It seems his motivation completely disappeared.

“…Well, it can’t be helped. Let’s continue after you win. –However if you really intend to win against those nobles, your easy going attitude might drag you down. You need to be as careful as possible.”

“Ehh, I’m always careful. Then, do you accept these terms?”

“Alright. I’ll observe quietly.”

“I see. Then, I’ll polish my skill until that time.” Prince Ashyl smiled brightly. However, as if suddenly remember something, his expression turned serious.

“The Princess name ‘Hiyuki’, is that something like a name which has been inherited for generations?”

“No, it’s my name only. But, I don’t really know if there’s someone else out there with same sounding name though.”

Using a duplicate name was not possible, that’s why in a server there won’t be two people with the same name. However, there are many who have different ‘Kanji,’ but the same reading, that’s why my name is not unique.

“I see. –Actually, in the past, when my father taught me about the records of the Lost Era, there’s someone with same name as you, Princess. I wonder if it’s only a coincidence, or perhaps it has some connections with you, Princess.”

Hearing term “Lost Era” unexpectedly, I was surprised and unconsciously drew closer to Prince Ashyl.

“…What do you mean? There’s some mentioning of my name?”

Overpowered by my vigour, the prince squinted with a baffled expression.

“Well, the record left in the Amitia Royal Family is nothing but fragments, or more like fairy tales. They say something like people in the Lost Era had the power close to that of a god, and it was an era where death and starvation didn’t exist, also giant castles floated in the sky.”

Yeah, that very castle is still floating in the sky even now, you know.

“And then there was a group that transcended even them, and one of them had the name ‘Hiyuki.’ Something like that.”

Hmmmm, it's still not enough material to judge, so I still can't draw any conclusions.

That said, whether direct or indirect, this world certainly is connected with "E.H.O. (Eternal Horizon Online).

"Is there a more detailed record or document about the 'Lost Era'?"

"I think it'll be difficult to find. When my father let me hear about it when I was a child, he only said it in a tone like he was telling a fairy tale. However, if there exists a country who has more detailed document, it will be no other than the Holy Kingdom of Eon."

"—Eon, huh. If I'm not mistaken, that's the country which is overly serious about human supremacy right?"

"Yes. Also foreigners who are not believers are not allowed to enter, so it might be hard to confirm if the documents exist there."

Hmm…As I fold my arms, thinking, finally the sound of the pursuers' carriages catch my ears.

"Well, let's think about it later. Mikoto and I will stop the pursuers here, so you guys may go ahead."

"What will you do Princess Hiyuki?"

Answering Prince Ashyl's question, I waved my hand.

"I've asked what I wanted to know. I'll deal with the pursuers here, so this is goodbye. –Ah, please tell Angelica too. Well, if I have free time I'll drop by."

"…I see. Then, this is a short separation. Please be healthy until our reunion."

Saying those words, he once again took my hand and kissed it.

I-I can't react again…

Mikoto eyes said something like 'Perhaps it's better to kill him after all?', but I answered her with 'Right, but let's vent that anger towards our pursuers for now."

"Rather than a reunion, I think it's more like the day of our rematch. As I said it, I placed my hand on Prince Ashyl's shoulder and used heal.

“Oh, this is... I am truly grateful and happy. –Then, until we meet again!”

Saying that, Prince Ashyl left that place behind gallantly.

Oh dear..

After saying a few words towards Angelica and Sir Carlo, they left in a hurry—though Angelica seemed worried as she looked back here many times.—As I looked at the disappearing carriage I felt a bit lonely.

“Then, let’s go Mikoto.”

I grasped the summoned Sinner of Rose (Gilles de Rais) instead of the ‘Water Sword’.

“As you command, Princess.”

Wielding her saint cane, she chased after me.

Well, many things happened, but, they’re fun siblings.

I don’t know how far the older brother will be able to go with his immature ideal, but, I can at least pray for his success.

==

Prince Ashyl’s physical and magical reinforcements last for 30 minutes.

If he goes all out they might only last for 15 minutes.

Episode 8 – Bell of Requiem

—And then the prince and the princess lived happily ever after. Wonderful, really wonderful.
The bell of requiem chimed in the royal capital of Caldia.

Each person, young and old, hung their head down immersed in sadness. Once in a while, they faced towards the royal palace, earnestly hoping for the soul they respected to be safely guided to heaven.

Also, at the altar in front of the royal palace, many visitors here to offer their condolences from inside and outside of the country gathered, making a long line. Each one carried a bouquet of flower and presented it.

There are people who shed tears, people who silently closed their eyes, and people who sincerely prayed to their gods. They perform various kinds of actions, but they all carried the same feeling, sadness.

“Seems it didn’t end like a fairy tale. —What a pity.
Nevertheless, I hate this irritating situation. My point is, what the hell is he doing? Next to the person who silently closed their eyes, that man recited various jumbled prayers such as, ‘O God Eon, I hope you accept this unclean soul to your side.’ In the first place if there really was a graceful god in this world, this kind of tragedy wouldn’t have happened.”

“Who knows? The only god that we have faith in is you, princess—solely Hiyuki-sama.”

“…Uuh. Come to think of it, in a sense, there are the same kinds of cults on our side too.”

The girl seems finished with her flower offering. She wore a black mourning dress which utilized a white crepe along the neckline. Other than her, an older woman wearing a thin colored dress is accompanying her—Or rather, they have a master-attendant relationship since the girl took the lead and the woman followed her thereafter.

Both wore veiled hats which made it so that their faces couldn’t be seen

through it. However, their whiteness and freshness, were entirely emitted from their majestic appearance, their atmosphere radiated hidden elegance and beauty completely unlike an ordinary person.

“Nonetheless, now that the present situation has turned out like this, the clock of revolution that the foolish prince talked about will be moved back by a lot. Perhaps we also need to change a few points in our plan.”

“Shall we overthrow this country?”

The attendant expressed it trivially like choosing a midnight snack. The girl lightly shrugs her shoulders and replied. “Overthrowing will be an easy task. But our policy is basically to reign not govern, isn’t it? When it comes down to it, in the distant future it would be very likely that this country would be snatched up by a neighboring country and I don’t really like things that are mine being stolen from me. If I can, I want to entrust this country to a useful and capable person.”

“Was it a person like that prince?”

“Ah, that prince is no good. If you want talk about capable people, then Guild Leader Collard is a hundred-times better. At least the guild leader carried himself like a leader and always paid attention his surroundings. That prince didn’t notice that his own abilities didn’t match with the scale of his surroundings.”

‘That’s why I told him to watch his feet,’ the girl adds, then she suddenly stopped.

In front of the pair, Sir Carlos, a black haired young man who quietly concealed himself at the roadside tree knelt down on his knee and greeted them.

“My! How surprisingly energetic you are.”

Being told with that kind of speech first, the third prince of Amitia Kingdom, Ashyl Cloud Amitia felt good that he could now smile after such a long time.

“…The only one who gave me those words is you, Princess Hiyuki. Everyone else just gave comforting words, worrying about my mood so much.”

“That’s because of your awful face—Well, it’s not quite different from your original—but that worn out face like you were at the point of death will make people want to say at least one comforting word to you.”

“…Oh dear, was my original face that awful?”

“There’s nothing in my memories other than your foolish smile or that dirty look, like you were licking peoples’ bodies. —Ah sorry, for my discourtesy.”
While shrugging her shoulders, Hiyuki sat down on the sofa opposite from Prince Ashyl. To each person’s back, as a matter of course there was Mikoto and Sir Carlos standing accordingly.

Her words make Prince Ashyl’s smile wryer, but he suddenly realizes the costume which Hiyuki is wearing, and perplexedly asked,
“That mourning dress is for…?”

Usually, a mourning dress is a dress that’s worn by close relatives at a funeral service.

“Ah, sorry if I did it arbitrarily. However it’s my condolences for my ‘little sister’ since I was called ‘Onee-sama’ even if only for an instant; therefore excuse me for having worn it. Is it bothering you?”

Slowly loading with a flood of emotions, Prince Ashyl shook his head.
“Absolutely not of course. If Angelica heard that, I wonder how much she would be delighted.”

It was the first time Angelica’s name appeared, Hiyuki’s smile disappeared from her face.

“That time was very unfortunate.”
Simply no more than that. It was your usual condolence words, but here dwelt her deep sympathetic expression for which many words isn’t sufficient.
At her back, Mikoto deeply lowered her head, substituting for her lord.

“No…It was all my responsibility. It could have been prevented if I verified the guards…In any case, it’s because the criminals were the guys from the youth party that I dispatched as the resting villa guards!”

On his words which was like him vomiting blood, Hiyuki knitted her eyebrows.
“Was it an underhanded attack by the nobles behind the scenes?”

“…If that’s really true, then my anger would rise up even more you see. But they were chosen by us, 4 youths between ages 15-18 belonging to the youth party that supports our political movement. There was nobody of behind it, it’s

simply the motive of money.”

“That’s really sad…”

“Even though they were in charge of guarding the inside of the villa, they said things like ‘You are royalty, aristocrats indulging themselves in luxury!’,‘Feel our suffering!’,‘This is justified retribution!’, and pillaging the villa’s belongings, and even more they assaulted Angelica…At the time when the guards outside noticed the uproar and arrested those guys, my sister already drank the poison to protect herself.”

Hiyuki with a grave expression swung her head and remained silent.

“Since for the royal family that kind of scandal can’t be opened to public, perhaps I had to say it was fortunate. It was officially announced that…Angelica had gone to the resting villa at Fulvia Lake to perform medical treatment for her named illness, and at the villa her condition became critical.”

“Hmm, well that’s good. As for those bad guys who attacked Angelica, they got what they deserved, right?”

“…Well, they were judged informally and it seems like they’re going to be executed in a few days…”

Those words made Hiyuki’s eyes express a dangerous look.
“…that was surprisingly slow eh. Why don’t you do the punishment instead?”

Hearing her words, Prince Ashyl silently hung his head down, bearing something, and soon rose his face with a mixture of sadness and anger.
“To be honest, I wouldn’t be satisfied even if I tore their limbs off!! So many times I wanted to hold my sword and settle it with my own hands! ….But, even if I kill them Angelica won’t come back. Besides, the one who said to their colleagues that blood isn’t washed by blood is me. Revenge won’t produce anything—”

“It’s fine even if revenge won’t produce anything. At least your feelings will become a bit better.”

Hearing that, Prince Ashyl bit his lips tight.

“Well, in the end it’s your own feelings, so I won’t say any more than this, but

do you still want to continue your democracy movement? There's no more of your sister to show a better world to though."

"…I will continue. Angelica is going to see it from heaven."

Hearing those words, Hiyuki shrugged her shoulders.
"You'll hear nothing from me if you're that stubborn. But, although I've said this before, I hope that you watch your feet."

"…Yes. This time I will engrave it in my heart for sure."

Seeing that Prince Ashyl agreed with her, Hiyuki gets up from the sofa.

"You will return soon? Come to think of it, I had promised that the next of our meetings would be our rematch, is that fine with you?"

"I'll pass. I am not in the mood for sword play. And foremost, you are at the perfect point of someone who would take part in suicide anyway."

On the word 'suicide', Prince Ashyl's face expressed his surprise.
Although he pretended to not understand it, his surprise showed that he was hit with a bullseye.

"Which reminds me, I wonder if I could see Angelica's remains?"

"No, she's already being transferred to the royal family graveyard. Therefore no one except royalty can visit her, but her face is really pretty."
Recalling his little sister, the princess' remains which were being prettied, Prince Ashyl expressed his sad smile.

"Is that so? I had come since Sir Carlos thought that perhaps I could give a final farewell to her but that's too bad."
As she continued her speech, she presented a shining red flower from her chest.
"If it doesn't bother you, next time when you go to meet Angelica, would you give this too?"

The moment Hiyuki said that, it felt like a red light emitted from her eyes.

"—I understand. Surely."
Prince Ashyl nodded and accepted it.

After Prince Ashyl showed the two people out by ordering the maid to lead them outside from here —in his own room at a separate building in the royal

palace— he spun the rose flower he got from Hiyuki in his hand. While doing so, he noticed that his closed heart become surprisingly better.
—It appears his heart was really charmed by that eccentric princess.

He believed that his heart was frozen as he lost his dear one, but it appears there remains someone in his heart that he could love.
That honestly made him happy.

"—Well then, Carlos. We will busy again from tomorrow onward!"
Prince Ashyl said it towards Sir Carlos who stood behind him, but then as the prince stood, a thick stabbing sound rang from the pointed end of a sword that grew from his chest.

"…Ca-Carlos…?"
Rather than surprise, as Prince Ashyl turned his face around, he instead had a look of disbelief on his face. There reflected on his eyes was a young man face with a look like a kid who had lost his way somewhere. He remained standing piercing Ashyl with the sword, the young man who is his foster brother, his most trusted retainer, and his close friend.

"…why…?"

"…why is the question I would like to ask your highness. Why would you still continue your political movement even though Angelica is dead!? I had made all of my efforts in order to make you abandon your plan so this kind of thing wouldn't happen!"

"…Do-don't tell me…Angelica…by you…too…"

Replying to the question he made in despair, Carlos nodded.
"I wasn't directly involved in it; however I was the one who arranged the plan."

"…Why? You're…with the noble faction…."

As for that question, he shook his head.
"No, ever since I was born I had sworn my allegiance to the royal family."

"……" Prince Ashyl made a puzzled face, but then suddenly he opened his eyes wide, surprised. "…is that so, then father is.."

"……"

Carlos did not respond to the question, but his silence gave the answer.
It seems Ashyl's father, the king who shouldn't have done neither harm nor good, was wagging his tail for the House of Nobles and decided to kill his hindrance of a son.

Perhaps Carlos was also troubled, being ordered like that. So as to not attack Ashyl directly, he prepared the attack on Angelica, hoping that Ashyl would withdraw from his political movement after taking the blow.

But, contrary to his belief, Ashyl declared that he was going to continue the movement.
That's why; he can't do anything but this.

'I hope that you watch your feet.'
Hiyuki's words that she said not long ago resounded in Ashyl's mind.

Aah. I didn't really take her word seriously…

While his view gradually went hazy, Prince Ashyl made a speech toward the red rose within his hand.

"….I am sorry princess. I can't keep…both…of the promises…"

The prince heard the requiem bell chime in the distance just as his consciousness melted into darkness.

The third prince of Amitia Kingdom, Ashyl Cloud Amitia had been assassinated.

From the items left on the scene, a magic sword and a rose flower, it was concluded that the offender was not human but a demon.

—On the same day, Amitia Kingdom performed the declaration of war toward the demon kingdom, the Imperial Crimson.

Yet, there were none who noticed that 3 days later, the corpse of Prince Ashyl which was enshrined at the tomb of the royal family was suddenly gone.

Episode 9 – Right Before the Decisive Battle

The dispute between Imperial Crimson and Amitia Kingdom was decided one sidedly by the upper echelon of Amitia Kingdom, ignoring processes of mutual criticism, followed up negotiations, behind the scenes negotiations, meetings between the concerned parties, or meeting to reach a resolution. It ended up becoming an all out war in areas connected to Kingdom, the Aquira Plateau—or to be more precise, they don't have any other options.

And against that declaration of war—according to their official announcement their reason to declare war is because Imperial Crimson had sent an assassin to end the life of the third prince, Ashyl Cloud Amitia. It's something that is substantial enough to proclaim war—our response is, "If you really want war then we will gladly accept. We will wait patiently until you guys finish your preparations, so anyone who wants to die, come forth."

That's the response of Imperial Crimson's queen—Actually there's someone who wanted to bridge the gap between the two concerned parties, Arra City's guild leader, Collard. He gave a runabout letter that was full of decorative words but—it all ended without negotiations and proceeded to all out war.

Toward that response that ignored international common sense, even Amitia Kingdom can't hide their bewilderment. However, before long at the adjacent Aquira Plateau, a myriad of monsters appeared as if they were falling from the sky. It's plain to see that they're under Imperial Crimson command, thus making them understand that the queen of Imperial Crimson's words were not exaggerations. And to defeat them, they hurriedly gathered the forces inside their own country—while the Imperial Crimson's side kept their word "We will wait patiently until you guys finish your preparations." They didn't make any attacks nor did any looting, but just patiently stood by—and finally the kingdom gathered forces several times greater than their opponent.

To break it down, the commander is a member of the House of Nobles, Earl Giovani Antonio.

The army under the direct control of the kingdom is around 5,500 people.

The Allied Lords cavalry is around 3,500 people.

Infantry units, consisting of footmen and archers is around 10,000 people.

A mix between mercenaries and adventurers which totalled around 2,500 people.

Volunteer soldiers totalled around 12,000 people.

Also their treasured magician corps was 150 people.

Clergyman dispatched from the Eon temple was around 70 people.

Also the trump card of the kingdom, 13 dragoons that were mounted upon wyverns.

All in all it cross over 30,000 by far, and become a giant force that unimaginable in these recent years.

They have one common motto:

“Divine punishment towards monsters that killed Prince Ashyl Cloud!”

***

“…then, those guys are heading to battle to avenge Prince Ashyl. What do you think Maroudo (visitor from a far shore)?”

There is an atmosphere that lacks tension, which is unbecoming of the decisive war (from Amitia Kingdom perspective though).—Since a while ago, they kept playing rock-paper-scissors to determine who would receive the role of vanguard.

Sometimes there’s a cheer of joy or a groan of someone who lost. Also fat bodies fell to the ground (it seriously sounds like an earthquake so I hope they stop it).

Angry voices such as, “You threw it later than me!” and also

“I’ll use paper!” Those kinds of bargaining words can be heard.

I ask the one beside me who abstained from it, a man with full plate armour—however without a helmet, but instead a red demon mask—a knight with reddish blond hair.

“If the prince heard it, he might weep in happiness.”

The knight answered in a carefree manner and shrugged his shoulders—even though he seems like ordinary human, he has bluish white skin that no human would possess. It is one of my family, a Dracula (blood sucking knight)—Maroudo (visitor from a far shore).

“How about you?”

“I don’t feel anything special. Since right now, I am nothing more than princess’s sword.”

“—you’re too familiar. Watch your mouth Maroudo. Even though you’re the princess’s family, you’re just a newbie.”

Hearing the irritated warning from Tengai, Maroudo apologized respectfully.

“My apology, Four Evil Heavenly Kings Leader, Tengai-sama.”

Though his attitude was respectful, it’s still questionable what expression he had since he wore a mask. Tengai squinted and tried to guess his true colors.

I tried to confirm once again.

“Are you sure this is alright? If you wish for it, I can return you to the same place with your little sister.”

“I can’t find my sister there in that world. It seems that she didn’t go to the same place as I did. Since that’s the case, being close to princess who I respect and love unexpectedly brings me happiness.”

“—of course. It is obvious even if you don’t say it. Maroudo, it seems your awe and respect towards the princess is still not enough.” Though Tengai was snorting, that would also mean that his vigilance toward Maroudo was loosening. Sometimes he even showed a tender expression.

Maroudo once again gave his apology and bowed his head, however when he rose and looked at me, it seems he remembered something and his mouth turned into loose grin.

“Actually, when I arrived here I thought this place was heaven, ah--…to think that the ceremony has that kind of benefit…”

He touched his yet to dry forelock while saying that.

“UWahh! Uwaah!!”

I, who remembered ‘it’, tried to act as if I didn’t hear anything and covered both my ears with my hands.

Or rather, who the hell proposed that kind of thing as a ceremony--!?!

As I entered the bath in preparation of war (My exclusive bath will give me a boost for 30 minutes after I stay submerged for 1 minute, but now it is extended though still retained the 1:30 portion and can be extended to a max of 48 minutes for a 24 hours boost. Though it can’t go beyond that), noisily, and as if it was natural, all the round table members entered the bath?!

Even Mikoto and Utsuho take their clothes without complaints.

Do monsters not have any sense of shame!? …… it seems so.

Well, if it was only that then I might still have been able to hold myself! It’s still a broad interpretation of ‘going to the bath with your ‘pet’.

However, this time even Maroudo also entered, what was that?!

“…I’ve burned it into my eyes. Soaked with hot water, pink coloured skin, also those pure pink coloured flowe—“

“Uwah!!!”

I tried to hit him with all my might while weeping in agony, but he evaded it. Tch, after turning into a vampire his basic stats were doubled, and he became more and more unmanageable.

Or rather, his illness became worse, I feel wronged in many ways.

“…Err”

And while we were in that kind of mood, guild leader Collard, raised his hand timidly.

“Is it okay for me to talk?”

Since Tengai took a glance toward me, asking for confirmation, I nodded lightly.

“Very well. I will permit a direct report to the throne.”

Even while saying ‘Yes, it's really an unobtainable happiness’ guild leader Collard cocked his head in confusion.

“…why am I here (in battleground)?”

Hearing that question, I folded my hands.

“That’s a hard question. Why human beings are born and exist here, every individual has their own answers.”

“No no, I don’t mean it as philosophical question, why am I, who should have been in Arra City’s guild leader room, being kidnapped and brought here…”

Instinctively I look toward the kidnapping culprit—Tengai.

“You didn’t explain it to him?”

“Of course I mentioned it to him. I said ‘The princess is calling, go quickly’.”

Yup, he didn’t explain the reason.

“Well, sorry for being sudden, I’m thinking of making you this kingdom’s king.”

“Eh….EEEEEEEEEEEeeeeeeeeeeeeeeehhhhhhhhhhhhh?!?!”

Understanding the reason, Collard was taken aback. Yup, as always, his reaction is excellent. Nevertheless he’s a capable person.

After he was incapable of making any comprehensible words for a while, I press for answer.

“Well, I am a person who doesn’t have any interest in ruling or politics you know? That’s why after I end this farce, we need change the current leader right? So I’m thinking of leaving it to another human to govern. Then, certainly I want to leave it to someone who has experience in ruling, and also has a great sense of balance like Guild Leader Collard—“

“There’s no way I can do it!!!”

He screams with full power.

“Well, it’ll be fine. The current upper echelon is a group of stupid people who tried to bluff and quarrel with me you know? Either they can’t see ahead

because of their stupid greed, or because they feel superior which makes them look down on others and unable to see the bigger picture. If they're compared to you, you're still a million times better."

"….I don't know whether it's really praise, but I still think it's impossible. I don't know anything about national politics…"

Guild Leader Collard sighed, and shook his head.

"National politics is about domestic affairs and external affairs right? For external affairs we'll use our glare, so there's no country that will invade—well for argument's sake if they do invade we'll crush them though. For domestic affairs, you can leave it to office workers and they'll somehow make do right?

For human management we won't meddle much, so you can do as you please. Won't it be like a man's dream, being 'king of the whole country'? I'll also let Maroudo help you, he will be useful."

Toward the saluting Maroudo who gave his greeting, Guild Leader Collard showed a suspicious look. However it seems like he noticed something and his eyes got wider and wider, almost as if they would roll out from their sockets. And with a trembling hand, he pointed at Maroudo.

"……no, no…way…Your Highness Prince A…!?"

"You must be mistaken. I am the faithful manservant of the princess, Maroudo (traveler from a far shore). Well, therefore, please treat me favourably, Your Majesty the King."

As Maroudo patted him on the shoulder, Guild Leader Collard's face looked as if his soul was taken out.

"Didn't I tell you already, this is a farce."

While I shrugged my shoulders, there's movement in the enemy army.

From the enemy lines, ten wyverns flew out—is that the rumoured Dragoon?

At the same time, our grand rock-paper-scissors battle also seems to have been concluded.

"—Alright! I win! I am the vanguard!!"

A tiger with 10 meter long wings—one of the seven sacred Beasts of Calamity, the king of Tigers—Kurashi, danced in happiness.

…Actually I don't really care, but, how does he do rock paper scissors with that paw?

"--Well then, princess. In this occasion, please bestow upon us your speech." Hearing Tengai's words, everyone's gaze focused on me.

Aah…must I say something? What should I do, I am basically a person who only has only slight interactions with others, so words that I can use are limited--.

…well, whatever. Let's use the default phrase I usually use when ordering my pets in the game.

"Everyone, let's annihilate the enemy that stands before us!"

"Ye—es!!"

In an instant, the surroundings filled with tension and blood thirst.

Wait, I unconsciously said 'annihilate', even if I try to take it back now, I don't think anyone will hear it.

They can't take a joke, so perhaps they will seriously annihilate them till not even one soldier remains…

We-well, it will be fine. That's the job of Mr. Soldier right?

For now, let's prevent their over enthusiasm from blowing up even the royal capital.

==

By the way, Saint's perfect resurrection can only be used within 30 minutes, that's why it is impossible to be used on the younger sister. For family transformation, other than random factor is quite strong, depending on the time of death and corpse condition, the success rate will vary.

Also, in the case it turned into vampire, their movement in daytime will be restricted (unbranded one will has half its status in the daytime). Actually Maroudo has +30% its past status while at daytime.

By the way, burned while receiving sunlit is something that influenced by

movies, even in Bram Stalker novel they can still walk normally under the sun (only their ability reduced to similar to human) Also, it will be explained later, but the current soldier of Imperial Crimson mostly consist of those newly acquired ally from great forest, white dragon mountain range, and ancient ruin.

As from their original member, the round table organize named a number of candidates.

Also they didn't wait at the battle ground, but going and returning to the country repeatedly. In short commuting army…lel

Episode 10 – Vanguard Battle

While humming and cheerfully running through the sky, the winged tiger, the Seven Beasts of Calamity Number 4 (Number 1 and Number 2 were treated as out of service and actually there is a Number 0 *secret*), Kurashi confronted the famous wyvern dragon cavalry of Amitia Kingdom with their high morale head on.

By the way, a wyvern is a kind of lesser dragon monster. If you compared it to a horse, it is about twice as large in size. Instead of forelimbs, they have a bat shaped wings.

Despite the nervousness caused by an opponent of a much higher rank, and on top of that, the opponent's huge size, the wyverns started to fire off their *flame lances,* releasing high temperature fire from their mouths, according to their rider's instructions.

Kurashi avoided this by changing his course in the air. Not by using his wings, but by using the air around him as a foothold which allowed him to perform uncommon acrobatic movements. However, as expected, with that many attacks he was bound to be hit by at least 2 or 3.

"Heh heh, it's only lukewarm. Try harder!"

Even though he was giving his encouragement, he mowed a wyvern using his forelimbs.
With a single blow enhanced by his *air cutter*, the wyvern along with its rider was shredded into small pieces, almost like they exploded.

"You're so weak, did you even eat your food properly?"

While muttering that, he turned toward a panicked group of 4 to 5 wyverns who kept their distance. He fired his *howling* roar, a bullet of ultra-compressed dense air.

The group scattered from his attack like a popped water balloon. Leaving them, he now turned toward the remaining 7 enemies. Half of them were already preparing to flee.

He continuously reacted against the fire from the wyvern's *flame lances* and also the crossbow shots from the cavalrymen who rode on the saddles. However, avoiding is troublesome so he put a *jetstream* on his body's surface, which warded off everything. And with that, he rammed toward one of them, and another, who twisted right in front of him. He chomped it into his mouth and chewed it along with its rider.

"…Not tasty at all. Ahh, I want to quickly go back and eat a large takoyaki serving from 'Takoyaki Chutulu' in the shopping district…"

Against the surviving wyverns who completely lost their morale and ran away, Kurashi fired his released *jetstream.* Lastly, he fired off his *tornado cutter* crossed with the *wind cutter* from his forelimbs, throwing the enemy around like juggling balls and eliminating all of them.

"The hell, it's already over? I'm not satisfied at all…"

Just a second later, Kurashi called his *Air Blast*, his strongest skill and aimed it toward a bunch of self-important and arrogant looking people at the enemy headquarters, deep within the enemy camp. Then he blew away the headquarters in one hit. ——Just now, an attack of intense light poured onto Kurashi's back.

"—Wh-what?"
With it being impossible to ignore such a strong attack, he jumped around in the air and turned back.

The one who poured that attack onto Kurashi had a crystal body shining on many sides, a being over 70m overall with tentacles all over and one huge eye at the center. It was Ikaruga, the head of Thirteen Demon Generals (This is his real form. Usually he handled the conversation through one set of his topological spaces, Umr-At Tawil). He rebukes Kurashi in displeasure.

"You went over the line. Your turn was supposed to be those bat monsters only. Did you plan to take everybody else's share?"

"Oh, Ikaruga huh? I was just expecting there to be a really difficult opponent you see, but the enemy isn't even putting up any resistance so I unconsciously went overboard. My bad…"

“Hmf. If you know that then quickly return. There’s still a lot us waiting in line there.”

Getting told by Ikaruga, Kurashi glanced toward the scene of his comrades who were waiting for their turn at his own headquarters. However, the scene made him cock his head in deep puzzlement.

“….Hey Ikaruga, why is everybody else looking so disappointed, but Princess is hopping around alone cheerfully?”

“Oh—” Ikaruga also looked over and replied. “Because they were getting bored, they bet how many seconds it would take you to defeat those bat thingies, but only the princess was able to win with her 43 second bet.”

“What was that? Someone is risking their life and those guys made a bet out of it? …Rather, wasn’t the one who said we were lacking a serious air the princess herself? Isn’t she now the most carefree one?”

“For the princess, this kind of thing is no more than messing around. Anywhere, anytime, isn’t that how she is?”

“…Hrm. You have a point there. As expected from the princess.”

“That’s right.”

“Then, I entrust it to you —fully exert yourself.”

Kurashi gave his farewell and turned back to his cheerful group. After seeing him off, Ikaruga looks at the humans who crawled like ants below.

They were panicking at just seeing his huge eyes. Ikaruga sighed from the bottom of his heart.
They were different from those transcendental worthy-of-heaven people (players) who once brought him down using only a tenth of the people. These people were much, much weaker.

“Ugh I feel disappointed. There will be none left for others if I don’t go easy on them.”

“Gotchaa! A one year supply of shopping district restaurant coupons, GET!”

I made a triumphant pose within the falling rain of losing tickets. Maroudo sees me from beyond his mask.

“…Look like it’s fun eh~”

—Uuh, Damn! I guess that scene just now gave him a complicated feeling. I unconsciously was forgetting myself. Really, betting is incredible!

“W-well pleasure is necessary once in a while in life!”

“When I see everyone here, I feel like they’re living their life in the spare moment of pleasure though…”

Don’t say those wise words! While thinking this, I ask him a sudden question on my mind.

“Which…reminds me, it looks like Kurashi blew away the enemy headquarters. Now that their headquarters is gone, by any chance, in this 1 minute after the start, is the war already over?”

Well, as you can see I won’t indiscriminately kill those who surrender.
But it’s best if it’s already ended with this (Of course the commanders still had to carry out their duties).

“No, those coalition force commanders were merely a decoration. The commander right now, Earl Giovanni Antonio is an amateur who had no combat experience. From the start, each of the lords commanded their own soldiers, so even with the headquarters gone, there is no meaning.”

“With no central leader, how they would have any coordination?”

“There is no such thing as coordination. Each noble only takes action on their own for the sake of spoils and achievements.”

Hearing those words loaded with self-mockery, I can’t close my opened mouth.
“If that’s the case, wouldn’t they be no different from burglars or mountain bandits?”

“Frankly, it’s exactly like that. Regardless of how they’re named, their existences are still the same.”
‘Hahahaha’ Maroudo gives his dry laughter.

“….If that’s the case, next up will be each of the scattered noble forces coming to attack huh?”

That very moment, streams of light like a sudden explosion were dancing.

Every single one of the personal armies in the vicinity of enemy headquarters were annihilated.

That was Ikaruga's forte, *dimension slash*.
In the game too, that was a troublesome thing. The pattern can't be predicted at all.

"….I'd say that's overkill! Right now, isn't 1/5th of the enemy gone already?"
Well, even though you say that there's already lots of holding back you know.

Still, here we have 30 men eagerly waiting for their turn, but the enemy is absolutely not enough.
Then what should we do?
It's okay right? Adding the insufficient share from other places?
Just next to it, humans are swarming together.
When this war (massacre) is over, we also have to eliminate the humans there anyway, the princess said.
Then destroying them won't be a problem!

—Goodness Gracious! The plot is going to go like that.
Sweat from a bad feeling gradually streamed through my body.

"Is there something on your mind, Princess?"
I kept thinking, ignoring Tengai's puzzled question.

For the time being, sending anyone else from the round table members is dangerous (For the enemy!), I have to think up some kind of way to ease up on the opponent. On top of that I have to get the consent of those surrounding me…

Or rather, a supreme commander is pouring all of her energy into trying to reduce her force's power so the damage that the enemy's forces take is lower. Isn't this some kind of mistake?

"Hmmm….."

Facing me who is currently pondering about the circumstances, Maroudo looks at the deployed allied forces and then asks me a question, "which reminds me…".
"As I see it, every demon commander of the round table is undoubtedly able to

deal with them. However, is there meaning in having your other forces here?”

Meaning huh… well there’s likely none.
To tell you the truth, the forces who are participating in the war right now are my immediate followers consisting of round table members and several applicants. The rest are monsters from the Great Forest, the White Dragon Mountain Range, and the Ancient Historic Ruins (dungeon) of this land who were citizens recently added into the Imperial Crimson, consisting of 10,000 people.

The purpose of bringing the round table members was to lower their stress. They accumulated stress since they were usually left behind, and it would be troublesome if they were unwilling to show their strength in times of emergencies. That was what I was concerned about, and so, for what purpose did I bring those newly added citizens of Imperial Crimson to this place? Frankly, it’s simply a figurehead to show our seriousness to the Amitia Kingdom.

With how our side seriously gathered troops, their side also had to make a serious effort. That’s how I lined up the purpose of showing off my forces.

On paper, I brought them so they could show their loyalty to me and to gain experience (monsters evolve after gaining a certain degree of experience), and so they came….eh, I could use this right?

“Tengai.”

“Yes! Did you call me princess?”

“The strength of the demon commanders is indeed magnificent. However, in spite of that the opponent’s ability is really a disappointment, isn’t it?”

“Yes, honestly it just as princess says.”

“Even if you have a rare famous sword, if it was used to fight against a rat there would not much of meaning to it. Therefore, how about we put the opponents against people who were freshly added into our Imperial Crimson?”

Hearing my words, Tengai pondered ‘Oh that’s true indeed.’
“…Surely there’s unlikely to be any more merit we could gain than this. Right now it might be a good chance to give those new ones the honor to stand alongside the princess on the battlefield.”

Oh, I gained a favorable impression. I had to make one more push.

“Yeah, I always stand on the battlefield, here I could take notice of certain individuals. During this battle I might be able to discover that kind of person.”

“With pleasure! I agree, it’s exactly as princess says. This Tengai, before he knew it had forgotten those kinds of things. It’s really inexcusable, Princess!”

Ok! With this, it will be not become a one sided massacre.

“—Exactly as you heard, gentlemen! I believe you had some complaints, but to train the future generations is our duty as the demon commanders of the round table. Let’s give them the stage here!”

There was some dissatisfaction revealed from the demon commanders, but the opinion ‘Well it can’t be helped, we have to take care of our juniors’, is in the majority.

“Perfect, then dispatch the messenger to our forces on standby! Tell them that we anticipate seeing their capability!”

As Tengai ended his speech, the round table members stopped being vigilant. Their mood immediately lowered down and they turned into old men who were gonna have a drink like on TV, “Hah… I need a drink, maybe a bite to eat too”, then they sluggishly walk into a food stall in the shopping district. (The participants besides the round table member who came along right now).

With this, the next battle of the Imperial Crimson and Amitia Kingdom will become a free for all between two forces.

Author Notes

The troops of Amitia Kingdom number at 28,000. In regard to the Imperial Crimson’s monster army of 10,000, it was almost equal in battle strength since in this world, 1 monster is equal to 3 humans in strength.

Interlude 2 – Breakdown Confession

This is Sir Carlos's story.

Well, not that I care, but this is a supplement for the original story.

==

My real name is Giancarlo Ericco Bertoni.

Even though the house of Bertoni is a noble house, as a lower class baron, actually it is impossible for me to serve near his highness. However when my father was young he served the current king as an imperial guard and built a friendship that crossed social statuses, or so I heard.

Me and his highness? Well, I don't know. In the end, I am nothing more than his highness's loyal retainer.

Because of the relation my father had, my mother who had just given birth to me, became the wet nurse of his highness who was also born soon after me.

Well, there are wet nurses other than my mother, but somehow his highness hated the other wet nurses—perhaps his picky taste of women was something he was born with.

…To be honest, actually I also have never seen any woman who is more beautiful than her highness Hiyuki, so I kind of understand why his highness fell into a daze.

Even so, my mother didn't neglect me when I was born and only focus on his highness all day.

…That's right, the reason was my mother was originally a commoner. If it was some other noble wife then I think they might have ignored their own child for his highness.

As a result, even before I was aware of anything I had been raised together with his highness in the royal palace.

Like a real brother? No, when I started to understand things we received

warnings, they emphasized about how both of us should know our own positions. That's why I don't have any intention of being more intimate than necessary.

To begin with, I have other real siblings, though we don't meddle in each others' business. In reality, whether you're born as a noble or commoner, it's all the same; there's already a clear difference between the eldest son, second son, and third son. (TL: if you don't know, Carlos is the third son)

--right, just what you expected. When it comes to his highness, he's unconcerned about that stuff, ignoring warnings from his surroundings, and he always brought me along wherever he went.

That's right. If I had to say, because of either of his highness's generosity as a virtuous person or his thick headedness, I indeed also enjoyed myself.

And with that I was treated as his highness's playmate or to be blunt his highness's 'toy'.

That duty changed when his highness turned 11 years old. Yup, after the attack by the assassins.

When I was 7 I also attended a children's school, thus I lost the chance to meet with his highness as frequently as before. However, a few days after the attack, my father and I were called in front his Majesty the king and began to have secret discussions. I become his highness's chamberlain and had to keep an eye on all of his highness's actions and report on every detail.

Perhaps His Majesty the king is the first one in the royal palace who felt dread toward his highness who, despite being only 11 years old, was able to fight back and even kill 8 skilled assassins.

Then, since his highness lets his guard down by me, His majesty the king ordered me to become 'the bell on cat's neck' (TL: advance warning device).

Yes, of course I can't refuse. Just like the order said, I reported everything that happened on that day in a detailed document.

…His highness? Well, I wonder. He should understand to some degree the reason I became his chamberlain, but he felt happy in all honesty.

“Well we can be together!” he said, and laugh happily.

Since then, every day was a hectic day.

I was even forced to play adventurer with his highness—right, even I had C rank qualification.

No no, that’s preposterous . Half of it is the result of taking care of his highness’s leftovers.

Since when it comes to his highness, in a mere two years, he reached S rank. That rank belonged to only 50 other people in this continent.

No, I didn’t feel envious at all.

Quite the opposite, I felt proud, to be able walk together with such a magnificent person.

For me, his highness’s existence is like an unreachable dream that I don’t dare feel envious about.

Even so, during the period of his association with commoners, before anyone noticed, the disparity of wealth and difference in classes casted a harmful effect on his highness. He didn’t show it on the surface, he should have felt ashamed in his heart—then in this world there are some who can “smell” that kind of thing.

With skilful words they got close with his highness, and started to give him impossible ideals… Yes, that’s right, if that ideal really was so splendid then they should try work hard by themselves.

I tried to separate his highness from them, however the ideal that took root in his heart was deeper than I expected and was eating away at his highness’s mind. He even managed to meet with them outside of my watch…

Around that time, the royal palace’s side felt the impending crisis, and ordered me to gather even more secretive information.

Reluctantly, I pretended to sympathize toward his highness’s ideal and work together with him.

And with the information I gathered, I reported on every detail of their organization, their hideout, even the number of people. I dare say they are being rounded up as I speak.

…Yes, I don’t feel anything special. Since in the beginning it was an impossible dream, and in the very end they are a group that tempted his highness for their own benefit.

Then one last order I received is, if his highness meddled with politics, I should end his highness’s life with my own hands.

If I said that I didn’t feel any hesitation then that would be a lie. To you tell the truth I thought that wouldn’t happen. I thought that enthusiasm was temporary, and since his highness was intelligence, he will come to understand reality.

However his highness pushed forward with his political campaign, and even made a deal with the monster country.

The royal palace fell into a panic.

Then, when they fell behind, their meeting was decided—I never thought that her highness Hiyuki was that free spirited—and the urgent order I received is, if His highness continued to attract foreign threats, kill him, something like that.

I kept worrying while looking at his highness’s defenceless back.

Must I, with this hand, end my own lord’s life?

That very person who bows his head to protect me, and calls me his ‘best friend’. My feeling of wanting to confess everything and ask for his forgiveness was erupting.

“I am a man who don’t deserve those words! Please punish me with your own hands!”

Clinging to his feet while begging like that might have been better.

…however, I can’t. My failure would bring the Bertoni family disgrace.

No matter how close my father was with his majesty the king…no, I think it’s the opposite, because of that, if people from the royal court used my failure as an excuse to punish my house, lower class noble houses like mine would be abolished easily.

That’s right, I compare his highness’s trust and my house, and decided to betray his highness.

Nevertheless, luckily he didn't receive the Imperial Crimson's help in this matter, thus I have some time.

Then, this was my last bet to separate his highness from his political campaign.

That's right, by sacrificing Angelica-sama's life, I would show his highness the difference between his ideal and reality. Also, it would show his highness how the citizens he tried to protect, might steal away the ones he loved the most.

Arranging a number of people from the sanatorium, and mobilizing those young people who were problematic from the beginning was actually easy.

My subordinate with a self satisfied face said to them,

"Though you guys need to work hard to be able to drink one cup of soup, those royalty don't need to do anything and live in luxury. They live from the taxes you pay, so isn't it fair for us to take it back?"

Just hearing that, they believed it fully.

…Yes, that's true. Those people, as long you gave them a justifiable cause saying 'it is the correct thing to do', no matter what kind of inhuman thing it is, they will do it without hesitation.

However……perhaps I misread his highness?

Even with that incident, his highness didn't give up on advancing…

This is the result.

***

"Then, is your confession finished?"

With an uninterested expression, Hiyuki who wore a pagoda sleeve which emphasized red rather than black and sat on the chair usually used by Prince Ashyl, verified that Sir Carlos was finished.

Prince Ashyl's private room had his corpse enshrined in the middle and was arranged to be brought into the royal family's graveyard tomorrow under the holy temple great priest's witness.

Tonight is the night the chamberlain ought to say parting words, alone beside the corpse. While looking at its face without getting any sleep, suddenly the

night wind stirred the lace of the curtain. Then he noticed, standing under the wide open window, was a girl with a face so beautiful it was as if it was the incarnation of the moon itself…Rather than be surprised, what he felt was relief, and he expressed what was inside his heart as he was being asked.

“Yes. Your highness Hiyuki, do you want to punish me?”

Against Sir Carlos’s tone which suggested that he wanted to be punished, Hiyuki snorted at him in contempt and answered.

“Why? This is your internal problem. I don’t have any reason to find fault.”

“However, this is the reason why the house of nobles can blame everything about this incident on your highness and your country. I am the source, that’s why I think it’s enough of a reason to punish me.”

Carlos once again brought that up with an unusually frantic expression.

“Well, it’s not like you personally arranged it right? Then you’re no more than someone who takes order from those stupid people who pull the strings behind the scenes.”

Being told that his life had no value whatsoever, Carlos bit his lips.

Meanwhile Hiyuki moved from her seat and walked toward the coffin with rose decorations and peered toward dead prince Ashyl’s face.

“I always thought he was stupid, but he seriously kept his stupidity till the end. I heard death can cure stupidity, but I wonder whether it’s true?”

She said it with a low voice so it didn’t even reach Carlos’s ears, however Hiyuki raised her face and showed an impish smile.

“I want to give my last farewell, so can you turn your head?”

“Ah, yes.”

He faithfully stood, walked to the wall, and then turned his back.

Confirming that Carlos wouldn’t be able to see what she was doing, she gently moved her face closer to his highness.

Carlos heard a voice slightly tinged with moisture –then after a few breaths he can feel Hiyuki return to her previous position.

“—well, something like this I guess. The rest is depends on his luck.”

At the same time he felt Hiyuki return to his position, Carlos turned his back in a hurry.

“Will you return now?”

“Yup, since it will become hectic from now on, they also won’t let me stay for long.” Saying that, Hiyuki showed a fearless smile, and her unusually long canines could be seen.

“…do you really not want to punish me? I confessed everything while anticipating that.”

“As I said, that’s not my duty. I just want to know why the bypass I left with the prince suddenly got cut off. Though, letting you carry those burdens for the rest of your life is already a painful punishment right?”

“……”

Then Hiyuki suddenly shrugged her shoulders.

“Well if your luck is good, soon someone with the qualifications to give you a punishment might visit you.”

“—what do you mean?”

“Just a possibility. Currently it’s only a 30% chance though, the rest is... perhaps you should pray to your God for the rest.”

Leaving the confused Carlos behind, Hiyuki advanced toward the window.

“Even so, you guys are indeed similar.”

“—hah?”

“While facing adversity or wanting to kill yourself, you guys try to borrow somebody else’s hands. Though you said you guys aren’t friends, perhaps this is what is called being of ‘the same feather’.”

Hearing that, Carlos became dumbfounded and opened his eyes wide.

Then by the time he realized it, Hiyuki’s figure had already disappeared like an illusion.

“Friend…”

That murmur which came from Carlos’s mouth flew out the window together with the night wind and disappeared into the evening darkness.

==

TL: I am too lazy to translate author’s notes so I’ll make a simple summary: For vampire transformations, the ‘parent’ needs to pour a fixed amount of their blood into the target. That’s why it’s a not kissing sound but Hiyuki bit his nape. Either way I want to kill the prince now, though he’s dead.

Episode 11 – All Out Melee

"Gentlemen, you are about to be personally graced with words from the princess! Listen to them quietly, and engrave them into your soul! Now, put your pride on the line and to your last breath, fight for them until the bitter end!!"

"—UOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOHHHH!!!"

As always, I was being overwhelmed by the extremely excited monsters (x10000) in high spirits who were leaving me out, the person concerned. Despite that, I prepared my Rose of Sinner {Gilles de Rais} and wore my serious equipment while secretly feeling alienated. From Tengai's upper head which was in its dragon form, I overlooked the surroundings of my on-site recruited army.

Blazing and glittering eyes were intently watching every single movement I made without fail. Attention which was almost turning into pressure was gathering.
Uwaah~ My stomach kinda hurts.

'To be able to receive the princess's personal encouragement would really be unexpected happiness.' That was the shape of the request which I got from Tengai.
I wonder what I should say? Should I talk like I usually did when my guild members asked me to give speeches before battles?

"Umm, right now I'll give you my introduction. I am Hiyuki, the guild master—No, I mean the sovereign of Imperial Crimson. Not long ago it was confirmed that there was an ambush with around 150 men in the forest on your right side based on our scout's report, so for any people who have their hands empty, please deal with it.
Nobody needs to mind the protection of our headquarters at all so please just suitably advance onward and kill the enemy. And then, it would be helpful if people who have spare time to be escorts for monsters who use magic just to be safe. In this battle, even if you don't win your own fights we will manage it somehow, so everyone please don't push yourselves to the point where you'll die. Well even you die, I'll manage it somehow as long as you're on this

battlefield.
Therefore for today, deal a decisive blow on the humans, everyone!”

For a moment, the monster army was making ‘Hah?’ faces, then Tengai yelled toward them.

“Do you understand gentlemen!? As long as we stay in the rear, it’s impossible for the glorious Imperial Crimson to lose! There is no turning back, there is no retreat signal for us, there is no fear, there no option but to move forward! After that, until we seize our victory, dying is not permitted! As long as the princess is watching your back, you must not lose your strength nor collapse! You must not waver nor fail to release all your strength! Fight to the bitter end until your soul has burned out!! —That’s what the princess said!!!”

After a moment of blinking,
“UOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOHHH!!!!!”
“ALL HAIL THE IMPERIAL CRIMSON—!!!”
“VICTORY FOR HIYUKI-SAMA!!!”
“OUR LIFE IS FOR HIYUKI-SAMA!!!”
All monsters present tossed up their fists. They raised their explosive screams, or perhaps I should call it a battle cry.

I didn’t say it like that…. Rather, parts of it like the ambush or escorts are missing. Will this be all right?

Ah~, look now! They all vigorously rushed into nearby opponents without thinking at all.

Look! Look! Arrows are flying out from inside the forest. Aah, we have some victims already. Even though I already told them about that!

“…it can’t be helped. Tengai, I will go to the battlefield to do the usual things, so I entrust our headquarters to you.”

“Is that fine? You’re not going to go together with me?”

“If you’re there, the new recruits won’t get any experience. And judging from appearances, the enemy’s attack is not on the level of being a threat anyway, there won’t be any problems.”
But well, if I silently stood and received something like a magic attack which then

escalated into a gang bang, as expected, I think I'll die.

"I understand. But please, sincerely be careful."
Tengai softly dropped me down respectfully with his forelimb, he respectfully obeyed at that place.

"—Mikoto, I entrust my support to you."

"By your command, princess."
Mikoto in her battle uniform came flying beside me. She gave me a bow.

After that I put Sinner of Rose {Gilles de Rais} into my storage space. Instead, I called out my exclusive equipment; a saint's long staff applied with silver and a rose flower design which had a pointed end that turned into a crescent moon.

"Secret of Roses {Blue Velvet}"

I swing it once to check its condition. Yup no problem, it's usable.
This thing is also exclusive equipment for priests which could be made through the blacksmith skill. It was exclusively made and forged 7 times, making the restoration effect greatly increase from its base stats. (Normally, manics use equipment that have been strengthened more than 7 times. This much is not quite enough. Er, I'm not a maniac you see? I precisely decided how much I would play on the first day).

Although the MP consumption of each skill still remained the same. No matter what, on the battlefield I'm gonna run out of gas aren't I?
Alas, I have no choice but to utilize other things like MP potions.
For that reason, I decided to use another secret weapon.

"Amari."

"—Yes, princess."
Just now, a drop of water like a red lump of blood gathered in the sky. A wave-like thin body whose proportions were hidden by a thin toga solidified, and there appeared a girl whose whole body was like a red ice sculpture.

She is Amari —Seven Beasts of Calamity Number 0, the highest rank water spirit (for some reason her color changed from light blue into red when she became my pet), also she is my partner when I am in saint mode.
The reason is—

“I will come to the aid of my allies. Use pet unison like usual!”

“Certainly, princess.”
At the moment she said those words, she turned into a beam of light and dove into my chest.

The result: my current status, including increases from equipment, is –

Race: Vampire Princess (God Ancestor)
Name: Hiyuki
Title: Graceful Lady of the Sky
HP: 1,428,000 (+1,350,000)
MP: 13,796,000 (+13,700,500)
▼

The particularly large increase of MP was because the strength which Amari possesses is great. Furthermore, the good thing is when using skills, MP consumption is cut in half, and natural MP regeneration is increased by 30%.
For that reason, although Amari did not excel so much in terms of fighting strength (well, presently she is strong by a big margin compared to me), she is absolutely necessary for me in saint mode.

By the way, in this current status I was called ‘The God of Death Who Pretends to Be a Saint’ or ‘The Buddha Saint’. The first half is easy to understand, but it seems the meaning of latter half seems to be ‘The Saint Who Builds Up a Mountain of Dead Wherever She Goes’. They were really impolite, good grief. (TL: Buddha saint ホトケの聖女 actually, in first you could see it as Buddha saint, but ホトケ could also mean the deceased)
“Now, let’s go Mikoto! Amari!”

“『Yes, Princess』”

As we faced towards the battlefield in high spirits, Maroudo called to halt me.

“Excuse me, can I also go to the front lines?”

“…I guess it’s fine, why?”

“Well, it appears the nobles’ coalition force seems to be trying to make the citizens volunteer as soldiers to be sacrificial pawns.”

“I think that’s natural isn’t it? Even if the number of volunteer soldiers is many, they’re just a crowd of amateurs. They have no purpose other than becoming something like a human shield. I believe it’s unjust, but it’s certainly an efficient way of using them.”
Well in the battle of Arra City, I thought up a similar tactic too.
Nevertheless,
“—Certainly, you won’t say something like, ‘I want to save them’ right?”

Tengai and Mikoto put themselves on guard, having the urge of ‘You shall be blasted away according to your reply’— fully dwelling inside them.
Well even if they didn’t do that, the life and death of my family is in my hands.
Or perhaps I should say, if Tengai releases his thunder breath here I would receive a great amount of damage just from the wave, therefore I want to prevent that.

“No-not at all! I won’t go that far. It’s just that I am unable to stomach that those nobles attack the volunteer soldiers who gathered in the name of the prince’s revenge without knowing anything, so I want to roast those bunch of nobles a bit.”

Looks like he was giving his reply with a compromising impression.
But in the end he seems to want to say that he wants to save them.

I looked into his eyes behind the mask to search for his real motive…but I don’t understand it very well.
Or rather, this mask is a hindrance, isn’t it? I put it on him to insinuate him, but it may have been a mistake…

Tengai and Mikoto are asking for my instructions with their eyes ‘How are you going to treat him?’

“Well…you can do as you like. Although whether you are there or not we will still be attacking, so pay attention to friendly fire as much as possible. In your case, your abilities are reduced by half during daytime.”

With my words, Tengai and Mikoto unfastened their posture.

“Thank you for your blessing, well then, I’m off for a bit.”
So he said, then Maroudo shouldered the long sword given by me —‘Ogrestroke’, a drop from high level boss, and calmly faced towards the

battlefield.

“—Is that fine with you, princess? Somehow that guy isn’t quite trustworthy.”

Tengai, remaining in his dragon form, brought me near his face and gave me his advice with a low voice. I tapped his nose, relieving him.

“If I am betrayed, then that’s that. And still that thing in itself will still be an amusement.”
Well, even if he betrays me he probably won’t directly rebel against me.

“—Affirmative. I was having a needless worry against princess’ deep foresight.”

“It’s not like that. It was helpful.”

“What! …I am undeserving of such words.”

Ignoring the huge shivering monster that was deeply moved (Tengai), I looked at Mikoto once again, and then I viewed the battlefield which stretched before my eyes.

“Now then, this battlefield is very spacious so we have to run around quickly. I won’t stop for you if you fall behind, Mikoto.”

“I shall be at your side even if must I risk my life.”

As soon as Mikoto finished bowing, I depart at a quick pace.

“Well then, let’s try to perform that old ‘zombie attack’!”

(EP 11 END)

Author Notes

By the way, because Amari’s fighting strength is weak, usually she didn’t appear openly, but she is certainly a round table member.

Episode 12 – Decisive battle end

At the beginning of battle, the enemies' monsters let out an attack with unbelievable power and a large scale magic attack that destroyed the spirit of the Lords Alliance. However, since the next attack didn't come after that, they began to believe that those attacks can't be used continuously; a kind of power only gunshot and one time only firework.

--Well, if they ask the people themselves, Kurashi (gunshot) and Ikaruga (firework), they will gladly answer the request by firing it in rapid fire. Still, right now they're busy drinking alcohol while gazing at the battlefield, cheering, resenting, and commenting with a self satisfied look—they're very busy.

Then, as if complementing them, the monsters that had been standing by in the Acquira Plateau for the past few days started to move while giving a battle cry.

Then, looking at that, the Lords Alliance's commander judged that their enemy had used up its trump card then moved to conventional melee. With that they suddenly they feel their spirit come back, and see their chance at victory.

The remaining military strength of Amitia Kingdom was over 28,000, while the enemy monsters only had 10,000.

In this world, fighting monster 3vs1 is possible theory-wise. Thus according that, they have equal war potential. However, different from personal battle, the effect of difference in numbers will rise exponentially in a group battle.

""We can win!!""

Every lord believed in that and first ordered the volunteer soldiers that were divided and placed under their command to the front line, thus preserving their own pieces.

Even though their numbers were overwhelming, they weren't better than any amateur—well, from the lords' perspectives letting them who supported the third prince who was a traitor and had a high possibility to rebel to die together with enemy is a justified action—they held crude weapons and wore crude

defensive armaments. Even if they desperately stood their ground against the surging wave of enemy monsters, they were mowed down by the Troll Warriors, and sent flying by the surging charge of the Goblin Raiders.

Those terrifying free for all fights, slowly became an agonizing painting of hell that will ruin your eyes.

In those chaotic and confusing states, the Lords Alliance's regular army which was standing by and waiting for an opportunity poured down a violent rain of arrows. Additionally, the magician corps was also firing numerous ice arrows which bore holes on whoever was in the way disregarding if it was friend or foe.

Moreover, as a finishing move the cavalry charged and exhausted the enemy army, then the infantry that came afterwards exterminated the survivors—that kind of scene can be found everywhere in this battlefield.

The match is decided! After all they are just inferior beasts, no matter how much they gather it won't be a problem!

Believing in their victory, complacent smiles floated in the faces of Lords allied forces' commanders. However the enemy's persistence which was out of their expectations and their own forces started dwindling together with the passage of time, making them begin to feel agitated and frown. Before long, cold sweat started to flow like water.

What is this?! Where are they coming from!? Moreover, their fighting spirit hasn't declined. As if they know no death!

Then, the needle of the scale started to wane away from the favour of the Amitia soldiers, as time passed it slowly inclined toward Imperial Crimson's side, until it was impossible to reverse.

***

"Well, [[All rise (Wide area resurrection)]] was only 8x8 grids when it was a game, so it helps a lot since now it covers a 50m radius, but still…"

Disregarding friend or foe, I stood in the middle of a sea of blood, and used the saint skill [[All rise]].

Faint light flowed from the long cane in my hand 'Secret Rose (Blue Velvet)'

toward my surroundings, the corpses started to come back to life and looked around, confused.

“For it to ignore friend or foe, I don’t know if I should say it’s convenient or inconvenient… or rather, while looking at that strange bird which was dragged in, also coming back to life and flew while saying ‘stupid stupid’, I feel it is really a waste of MP.”

While muttering to myself, I move and cast [[All rise (Wide area resurrection)]] again without stopping.

Since the resurrection knows neither friend nor foe, allies and enemies were jumbled together and got into a confusing situation, in panic some even started to fight again, however,

“Hey! Imperial Crimson’s soldiers who have come back to life, quickly move to the front! The battle has already moved forward since a long time ago, don’t be slow! Also, volunteer soldiers from Amitia Kingdom, the Lords Alliance sacrificed you guys and even attacked you from behind, I won’t forgive you put up resistance and I won’t resurrect you again. However we won’t pursue you, so if you want to runaway, go on. That’s all.”

I said what I wanted to say (since it is only possible to use resurrection within 30 minutes, I can’t waste my time here), and left that place.

Actually, this is what I heard at latter time, most of the volunteer soldiers retreated from the battlefield in an unsteady manner, as if their soul was gouged out.

“…do you think I’ve become soft, Mikoto, Amari?”

Suddenly, I remembered the face of a certain masked knight who was also in this battlefield, and asked the two of them.

“Not in particular. –Since from the beginning, it’s not something princess should worry about.”

“…From the start Princess was always saving others depending on mood and meaninglessly committing atrocities. So I am happy that you haven’t changed.”

“…well, thank you.”

I see, so they look at me that way…

“Well, first, let’s work hard!!”

Encouraging myself, I ran around the battlefield like a wind.

***

The result is clear like night and day.

Unhurt Imperial Crimson soldiers came from every direction, against Amitia soldiers who were not only full of wounds, they also had no reinforcements and were separated from their own lords. Moreover, Imperial Crimson soldiers thoroughly trampled them, not leaving even one soldier behind in their wake.

“—ru, run… no, retreat!”

Nobles from the surviving army quickly rode their warhorses and attempted to leave the battlefield with great haste.

Trusted confidants who gathered around him looked at each other’s faces and timidly asked for confirmation.

“However, our allied soldiers are still in the middle of battle, shouldn’t we give them retreat signal?”

“Don’t be stupid! Giving me time to retreat is the duty of those low class people! While they stall those monsters, let’s leave this place quickly!”

Hearing him shout with a red face, his close confidants nod to each other, and start to scramble towards their own horses.

“…Err…isn’t doing that kind of thing irresponsible?”

In that moment, a violent blast descended toward their formation and the surprised horses simultaneously ran away from that place, leaving their owners behind.

“Like masters, like horses…huh”

Falling because of the wind pressure of the horses, they were bewildered because they saw a knight with red armour and a red mask walking in the middle of them before they noticed.

--this man, I feel like I’ve seen him somewhere…

A faint, familiar sensation welled up in their chests, but before they reached the answer, the man faced them and showed a fearless smile while resting his long sword on his shoulder.

“It’s unbecoming for commanders to sacrifice their own allies and run. Our princess on other hand, is running around the battlefield so none of her allies die here.”

“You, who the hell are you?!”

One of the subordinates can’t take it anymore and asked, the man prepared his sword and said.

“Imperial Crimson, one of the Princess’s Subordinates. Maroudo.”

“Whaa--!”

In between the commanders whose complexion became pale, the man who called himself Maroudo danced forward as if slipping, drew and swung the sword in his hand horizontally.

“—Uranami no Shibuki (Beach Wave Splash)”

With that one attack, those who drew their swords and grasped them, those who tried to draw their swords, those who tried to run, everyone silently turned into corpses.

Only one, a noble who fell on their back, was saved.

“…Seriously, to think someone had this kind of luck. Well, I don’t know about the me from before, but the current me doesn’t have any reason to hold back. So I’ll send you to the hell your subordinates went to, Earl Villoresi.”

Looking at the conduct of the man who walked toward him, his figure, also his voice that he used to name himself, matched up every sign he got, Earl Villoresi gasped.

“…Ma, Maroudo you said? No, that’s wrong, you, you’re Cloud…Ashyl…”

“The person with that name is already dead. The one standing in front of you is only his remains… and it will also disappear shortly, leaving only Maroudo behind.”

Saying that, he drew and swung his sword straight ahead.

…In the corner of the battlefield, all lives came to an end.

In the stillness that is unsuitable for a battlefield, Maroudo let out a sigh and whispered to no one.

“Will you feel sad looking at the current me? Well, more than that, perhaps you detest me for being unable to save you…”

“—Aren’t you the one who knows the answer to that question the most? Do you really think her soul doesn’t wish for your happiness?”

A clear voice answered him.

“…ah, princess.”

Carrying ‘Secret of Rose (Blue Velvet)’ in her left shoulder, Hiyuki stood there before he noticed.

“I am sorry, but please save your tears until after we wrap this up? The war here is over, but apparently there’s a revolt in the royal capital. The follow up action is something you must do.”

“Revolt…”

Hearing not so gentle words, the part of Maroudo’s face which was not covered with the mask tightened.

Hiyuki shrug her shoulder lightly.

“Yep, somehow the result of this war was announced by the fleeing volunteer soldiers. Then the people who were unhappy towards the nobles until now, all revolted at the same time. –well, the seed that someone planted might be sprouting, or something like that.”

“…I see.”

Maroudo muttered in low voice, hah…and as if he was a traveller who finally unloaded their heavy burden, he let out a sigh flooded with emotion.

“That’s why. I am planning to direct all soldiers to the capital, don’t lag behind. If you’re late, the thing you left undone might never get fulfilled you know?”

“I see. There’re still many things I need do.”

Though she feels the desire to ask, what he's thinking about, who he's thinking about, and what would he do, in the end she left that place without asking any of it.

Then, looking at that back, Maroudo felt somewhat relieved and asked frankly.

"Princess, when everything has ended, may I borrow your highness's bosom and cry as much as I like?"

"—wha, why?! Just cry alone!"

Hiyuki hugged her own chest and retreated right away.

"Well, men are creatures who want to cry in a girl's bosom in painful times."

"The, then isn't it better if it's not thin like mine right? How about Sophia? Her chest is huge, there's no objection to it."

"…That young lady ogre? I will be strangled to death."

Leaving aside Maroudo who felt dejected after imagining it, Hiyuki ran like the wind.

"My my." Scratching his cheek, Maroudo headed toward the royal capital. "I wonder whether he's waiting for me…"

He muttered someone's name, but there was no one to hear it.

Episode 13 – Mutual Dependence

Guided by several military officers inside a dim underground tunnel, a man in his prime with respectful social status and a man in his mid-twenties caught their breath. They kept running as fast as they could.

“Please hurry your majesty, we will come out of a hut on the outskirts of the royal capital if we can escape from here. Afterward, we shall hide ourselves inside Duke Baldi’s place for a short time, then we will seek help from the empire or holy kingdom to sweep those rebels and demons out of this country.”

“I-I know. As if I would hand this country over to those kinds of demons or rebels! I will definitely take it back with my own hands.”

The man in his prime, who doesn’t have bad looks, but somehow lacks ambition, grumbled annoyingly while carrying a small box like it was something of great importance.

“Of course, father. Let’s teach them who owns this country. At any rate, more irritating than those demons are the citizens! They kept enjoying a great life under father’s rule and yet they turn sides and changed into insurgents that blame us —Damn those ungrateful looters!”
The young man is more blunt; dazzling flames of malice burned in his eyes.

“It’s just as his highness said. Fortunately this passage is only known to a few people outside of the royal family. Also, earlier we blocked the exits and entrances to the castle, so, Your Majesty, please feel at ease.”

Hearing the words from the military officer, the man —Amitia Kingdom’s current king, seemed to hesitate for a moment.

“…However, my sons, my daughters, and moreover my empresses remain in the royal palace.”

“There’s no other way. The public would take notice and escaping would also take time if we went together. However, as long as we have father who is the current king and myself who is the next term’s king and above all if we have the seal of state, then Amitia Kingdom will still be at peace. They are also royalty, so

they already should have had the resolve to sacrifice themselves, right?”

Being told with a firm tone by the young man —the first prince, his son who was first in line for the right to the throne, the king looked upon the small box held in his hands and sank into silence.

Then, at that moment, inside the underground tunnel where there should be no footsteps other than their own, cute clapping sounds like they were made by a small child echoed.

“—W-Who?”

Everyone present became confused and halted their advance. They drew their swords and turned toward the direction of the clapping sound —the darkness where they were supposed to go.

Before long, within the range of the lantern’s light held in their hands, not using a candle but by means of a magical tool which by turning on the light magic made it quite bright, there appeared a little girl wearing a black luxury dress arranged with roses. Her appearance still maintained her innocence and yet her face was terribly beautiful. She was accompanied by a swordsman equipped with red armor who had the upper half of his face hidden by a devil mask.

Towards that very out-of-place intruder, momentarily the question of, ‘Was that a ghost or a spirit?’ floated in everyone’s mind, but the girl didn’t even consider their bafflement and opened her mouth with a fully bright and frank tone.

“Splendid-splendid! That’s right~ Royalty must take responsibility. Naturally they have the resolve for it, you said it yourself right?”
Saying so, she folded her arms and nodded in consent.

“Who are you? Why are you here?”

The girl sent a cold gaze toward the prince who asked the questions with a sharp light in his eyes for a moment and then she elegantly performed a curtsy.

“I am called Hiyuki, the sovereign of the demon kingdom, Imperial Crimson. It’s a pleasure to meet you for the first time. —And, I bid you my final farewell.”

“Wh…Why are people from Imperial Crimson here…?”
Among everyone else who was speechless, the first prince could barely express his question.

“—Who knows? You won’t exist anymore so it’s useless to know, don’t you agree?”

Hearing her words, the military officers remembered their duty and readied each of their swords. They came rushing toward Hiyuki.

“Maroudo.”

The red knight drew his long sword and stood in their way, and they clashed with him.
Although this is a narrow underground tunnel, an attack from several directions would be too much, that’s how those military officers believed they had attained victory, but…

“Haze Storm.”

At the same time the man who was called Maroudo stepped in, his figure seemed to duplicate. Simultaneously, the military officers’ eyes opened in surprise.

“Th-that skill!!”
“Yo, you are—!?”
“Don’t tell me, pri…”

All in an instant. And then, at the same time Maroudo walked out, the military officers dropped down together with spurts of blood.

“Hiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii!!”
The first prince, not even gripping his sword, screamed and escaped without shame nor concern for his reputation. Looking upon his disgraceful act, Maroudo breathed a sigh and brandished his sword.

“Lonely Moon.”
The sword’s flash cut through the darkness. Something heavy falling could be heard.

Only one person remains… the king. Rather, the reason he remains was

because he already dislocated his back and was unable to move. Hiyuki swayed her head “Oh dear, oh dear” while approaching him until they faced each other.
“You see, the things you said and the things you did don’t match up. In Prince Ashyl’s case, it was just like that: accusing him of inviting foreign intervention and conspiring with our country? Then what are you guys saying just now? Isn’t ‘Seeking help from the empire or the holy kingdom’ just the same? That sort of thing is what we call double standards.”

However the king probably didn’t hear her words. He prostrated himself and presented a small box,
“Sp-spare me! I carry my seal of state. With this my country is yours. Tha-that’s why, please…”
He appealed while crying.

Hiyuki is taken aback looking on at the situation. She raised both of her hands, giving up.
“I believe the country isn’t going to turn around with only this single seal. Well, if later I gave this to Collard-kun, I wonder if I could use it for some kind of bluff? For time being I shall accept it.”

Saying so, she lightly kicked up the small box, caught it, and stored it in her back pocket.

“…H-how about it then? Just my life.”
Having said that, the king rubbed his head on the ground. Hiyuki turned her cold yet subtly bewildered gaze toward Maroudo, but he shrugged his shoulders showing that he leave the decision to her. She sighed.

“I heard that your character was a bit better, but rather than to say a disappointment …nah, that miserable look on the contrary is refreshing once in a while. —Well, the seal of state is a very valuable thing for sure.”

Even being told that, the king’s body was trembling, he repeatedly begged for his life again and again muttering incoherently. Seeing this figure, Hiyuki sent her lukewarm gaze blended with shock and contempt, and then she shrugged her shoulders.

“I understand. It seems there is no value in taking your head at this place. I and Imperial Crimson won’t interfere with anything.”

“—O-oooooh…!!”
The king glittered with hope because of those words.

“…Therefore, I shall leave everything to the citizens of this country. After this, we are going to take you into the plaza in front of the royal palace. How will the citizens judge you, I wonder? …Well, since you are managing the country well making the people rejoice at how their great lives are, they should delight in receiving you.”

As her words were the equivalent of a consecutive death sentence, the king’s face was once again dyed in despair. He shook his head in denial backing off from that place but Maroudo seized his neck. Tears and saliva poured out, escaping from his hands like a spoiled child.

“Really unsightly. —Tengai.”

Responding to that call, faint light particles flew out from Hiyuki’s chest and gathered beside her; it then transformed into a golden colored knight.
“—Yes. Did you call me, princess?”

Hiyuki turned toward Tengai who bowed,
“Sorry, but will you throw this out into the plaza in front of the royal palace? —Aah, the exit is closed so breaking out wherever suitable would be no problem. Later, explain to the gathered citizens that we gave them this thing for them to clean up.”
With a relaxed tone like she was dealing with kitchen waste, Hiyuki pointed at the king who is currently struggling.

“Acknowledged.”
Tengai bowed once again, then he gripped the king’s neck, taking him from Maroudo, and casually dragged him away.

“No, nooooooooooooo. Wh-what are you going to do with meee—!!!”

“We won’t do anything. Therefore that’s the outcome isn’t it?”
Although the king couldn’t hear it anymore, Hiyuki replied to him after he disappeared across the underground tunnel. She turned toward Maroudo who stood rock still in silence.
“…Looks like the first prince and the king didn’t even notice you up to their last moment. Even though their subordinates did.”

“Whether I should feel sad or delighted is a complicated thing, but this result is everything.”

Looking around, the corpses of the military officers and the first prince that lied down inside the underground passage, Maroudo replied to her remark with an indifferent tone. He swung the long sword held in his hand once, erasing the splash of blood and returned it to the scabbard.

“Now then, I am going to give this seal to Collard-kun. —Well, I think he is going to hate it for sure.”
Hiyuki, suppressing her giggles, imagined the scene.

“In that case, I will finish some minor business in the meantime.”

“Hmmm. Oh well, we have finished 90 percent of our business here anyway so you can take it easy.”

Maroudo silently nodded. He proceeded to walk straight in the direction of the royal palace. Seeing him off, Hiyuki turned her body and started to go back the way she came from.

Author Notes

I have been thinking, will the king afterward get executed? Or will he be accepted?
It’s unrelated to original story so I left that out.
Well, he probably got lynched.

Episode 14 – The Imperial Crimson Empire

Familiar footsteps stopped in front of the room, after a short pause the door opened.

This person—despite the details can't be seen because of back lighting, with only a glance, Carlos understood that the person is someone he's been waiting for. Carlos showed a faint smile while he continued sitting in his chair.

"—Welcome back, your highness. I thought you wouldn't make it in time."

"My bad, there were a lot of idiots who attacked me on the way."

Hearing that nostalgic yet familiar voice, Carlos was overwhelmed with feeling of wanting to weep and was unable to find any words to say.

"Even so, you don't seem surprised at all. The other lots were looking at me as if I was a ghost—well, not that it's wrong."

Being told that, Carlos's smile deepened.

"…How's the situation outside?"

"Hn? Ah, they've stopped plundering for now and are in the middle of the public execution of royalties, nobles, and officials. Also, there might be some idiots who will set fire to this place soon, so I guess the royal palace is also finished."

Even though he said it as if it was somebody else's business, noticing a tinge of loneliness in his voice, Carlos looked at him with a soft gaze.

"Well, that's good… or not, as I thought, it's regrettable." "Hah? Which is it?"

"…what's regrettable is, how the place which is filled with our memories will disappear—"

At that moment, memories of their childhood recurred in both of their hearts.

Everything was sparkling.

Everything was treasure.

Everything is—now in those unreachable days.

“That’s true. We often walked around the royal palace’s subterranean tunnels and secret paths while treating it as an expedition together.”

“Don’t say ‘together’, I was just following your highness. Now that I think about it, if we were found out, though your highness might be fine, they might kill me to seal my mouth.”

Carlos said it as if he was reproaching, and the one who received it seemed to feel bad and scratched his cheek.

Looking at that unchanging bad habit, Carlos’s cheeks loosened.

“My bad. Well, that said, because of that now I can enter the royal palace easily, and I even met father and his companions en route, so result wise it’s not a bad thing right?”

“That’s just coincidence you know. Don’t you know how much hardship I faced every time because of your random conducts? –Incidentally, did your highness pass judgement on them?”

“No, though I killed big brother because he tried to run away. However because father was bawling and begging for his life, the princess felt amazed and decided to throw him to the execution queue. So now he’s waiting for his turn. ……But how should I put it, defeating him who is the symbol of this country should be my main objective, yet looking at the reality of it, all my efforts, my political campaign and such, it really seems like a joke.”

Well, he’s someone who was hard to deal with when I was child though, he grumbled.

“So you finally understand? Good grief, that’s because you weren’t being your usual self, if not you might never have noticed it…”

Bored of the abusive language, the silhouette scratched his hair.

“—you…I heard from the princess that you want judgement for your sins, but when the person himself appears in front of you, why are you scolding?”

“Of course that was my original intention, but when in front of the person himself, I can’t help it. …well, this is the last time, so you may ignore it with a

light feeling.”

“…” Perhaps understanding what Carlos was trying to imply, the silhouette who was standing in the doorway closed his mouth.

“—Yup that’s right, the reason I am not surprised and the reason I said ‘that’s good’.”

While saying that, Carlos swallowed the feeling that gradually rose inside him and took out a sheet of a memo.

“?” “…The truth is, I also used the royal family’s escape route. I have no right to lecture you. And while this might be disrespectful, since I am afraid that there might some mob who aim at the burial accessories in the royal family’s graveyard, I took the initiative to move Princess Angelica’s remains here. Later, I will leave it to your highness to bury her again. –or perhaps, in her highness Hiyuki’s hands, she can return to this world like your highness?” Carlos’s expression faintly asked ‘If it’s possible, then I would like to meet her’ , but the silhouette shook his head lightly.

“No, it has been too long after her death, even with Princess’ power it would be difficult. And the Princess seems like she doesn’t want to do it anyway.” While answering like that, he remembered his conversations with Hiyuki.

[[“This is blasphemy to the dead you know. Well, I don’t mind doing it on unnatural dead or death from an accident, but reviving someone who died from suicide is inhuman right? Returning someone to hell is just pitiful. That’s why, I want her to be reincarnated normally. –I also believe in reincarnation even just a bit.”]]

“—I see, though I want to say a few words of apology towards Angelica-sama, well, perhaps I can do it at the other side…” “…”

“Let’s get back to the topic, when I transported Angelica-sama’s remains, I checked your highness’s coffin, and found that the corpse in it was no longer there. Since I also received some hints from her majesty Hiyuki, I could guess… well, it’s kind of wishful thinking though.”

“…So this is the result huh. You’re more stupid than I expected.” That silhouette took a step forward and entered the room while saying that.

Then in an instant, the thick scent of blood filled the room, twisting around the silhouette's body.

"Well, my lord is stupid, so I might have been infected by his stupidity."

Even while cracking a joke like that, the shadow of death floated in his face. Maroudo who had taken off his mask—Ashyl Cloud, took the memo, and while looking at the person who was full of cut wounds on his body and had not even enough power to stand up, he let out a sigh.

"Your sword skill is mediocre, so you don't have to push yourself like that."

He remembered the corpses of the rioters that were laying around outside the room.

Perhaps, it's the result of him defending this room—his private room from the rioters who tried to plunder it, alone.

"That won't do. Because I am Your Highness Ashyl Cloud Chamberlain."

"Chamberlain huh?"

"…No, her highness Hiyuki said it to me, perhaps we are kind of partners in crime."

He smiled happily.

"That's true!"

Ashyl Cloud smiled broadly. He lowered his hips and drew his longsword.

"—it seems it's almost time. Do you want me to deal the final blow?" "Please."

Facing Carlos who showed a clear expression and lowered his head, is the somewhat lonely Ashyl Cloud with a sword in his hand.

"Do you have any last words?"

"…I am sorry, your highness!!"

Toward that shout which was filled with all of his spirits, Ashyl Cloud replied with a smile.

"—don't mind it. You're my friend right."

"Yes, thank you very much."

In an instant, in the darkness, a single light flashed.

***

“This is for you.”

Toward the small box that was presented in front of him with a face full of smiles, Guild Leader Collard’s eyes looked at it as if he was seeing a bomb.

“…what is this?”

“Nation seal. I received it from the King a while ago you see, but since I don’t need it, I’ll give it to you.”

In an instant, Guild Leader Collard opened his eyes wide, and stepped back while shaking his hand.

“I, I don’t want it! If I receive it, I won’t be able to turn back anymore!”

Well, I think it’s already impossible for you to turn back now.

“—you, does that mean you won’t accept something Princess is giving you…?”

Utsuho who looked at that, tried to confirm it with a strangely quiet voice.

However if you look closely, her eyes are those of beast, and you can even see fangs peeking out from her mouth which was hidden by a fan.

Additionally, round table members were surrounding him and the demon army gazed at him with killing intent.

Facing the troubled guild leader with cold sweat dripping down his face, I shrugged my shoulders lightly.

“Well, if you don’t want it then I will throw it away. It’s just that if you have it you might be able to appeal to other countries, something like having legitimately succeeded the current nation. However if you don’t accept it, that said nation is going to be a direct colony of Imperial Crimson, that’s why there might be some friction between this country and the surrounding countries.”

As I said that, the Ogre Princess Sophia raised her hand,

“Princess, if this country become yours, can I eat humans as I like?”

“Of course. Kill and eat as you like, toy with them as you like.”

Utsuho let out a careless laugh.

“Then, then. Is it fine to eat the previous human nest—Arra City—which I was not allowed to eat before?”

“You can eat those in Arra, or even in another country. The likes of humans are abundant, they will continue to grow.”

Towards Utsuho, suddenly the demon army’s tension rose up and shouted in joy.

…It seems invasions into other countries is already a fixed matter.

“…Look. Because of you, the world is in danger.”

“Is, is this my fault?!”

Having the full responsibility shoved in his face, Guild Leader Collard shouted hysterically—I don’t feel any sympathy though. If he just obediently said ‘yes’ then there won’t be any problems.

Taking responsibility for the monsters? I don’t care about that.

“Well, that’s why, if it’s possible I want to settle this peacefully.”

In front of the dejected and lifeless Guild Leader Collard, I held out the little box with the seal of the state once again.

“Is the ‘peace’ you speak of something like suppressing others with fear and violence? If so, then making a deal with pirates or warring races is a lot more peaceful I think.”

“That’s just a matter of perspective. Well, there’s a saying ‘nothing can make life easier other than violence’, also it’s evident that it does make things simpler.”

I don’t know whether Guild Leader Collard is listening to my words or not, but he let a deep—very deep sigh, while accepting the little box that I presented in front of him.

***

The war between Imperial Crimson and Amitia Kingdom ended in merely half a day.

On the same day, in the imperial capital of Caldia there was a sudden revolt which resulted in the execution of royalties and nobles. As a matter of fact, Amitia Kingdom actually already collapsed from that, however, with the victorious country—Imperial Crimson—backing, the free city of Arra plus the adventurers guild and merchant guild which quickly received domestic approval, the revolt was suppressed successfully.

In three days, peace had returned to the country.

Before long, to fill the empty position of King, the previous adventurer guild leader of the free city Arra, Collard Joculator Aldenant was named as a temporary king. The state name was revised to the Republic of Amitia.

It was explained as a preliminary move for the future to change the current government system from the King-system to the Republic-system. (Though the current King—Collard explained to those who were close to him that 'this is revenge to the Imperial Kingdom Sovereign')

In the same month, a non-aggression pact with Imperial Crimson was concluded, though half of the content of said pact could be seen as indirect colonization by Imperial Crimson.

That said, the disorder only lasted for one month, and the impact towards the western part of the continent's finances and other countries are a minimum, so from King Collard's perspective it's a valuable thing—at least for now there will be peace.

Nonetheless, this year is the year where Imperial Crimson's name will be recorded in the history books in this great continent.

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Holy Kingdom Eon, Holy City Faximile.

The whole city itself is a temple, and in the middle of the city is the 'blue divine tower'--an enormous tower built from unknown materials that stood grandly as if piercing the sky itself.

At the top floor of the tower which no one but those with the permission of high ranked clergyman or great pope can enter,

From the opened window, a bird as big as a raven with rich coloured wings, stopped at the perch while singing ‘stupid, stupid’.

Hearing that, the person who raised his face—if the church people were here they might doubt their eyes, a man with blue hair and scaly bronze skin—rose from a luxurious chair and walked towards the bird.

“So you’re back. Now, tell me what you saw.”

While saying that, he grabbed the bird, and without hesitating—twisted its neck and killed it then swallowed it whole.

While keeping that posture for while, he closed his eyes, but before long muffled laughter started to flow from his mouth.

“……..kukukukuku! I had doubts when I heard ‘Imperial Crimson’, but to think that it’s really Hiyuki-chan. I never imagined that we would meet again after all this time.”

His gaze shined with lust and he looked upward.

“I’m really looking forward to it, the time I break that flower with my hand! At that time I will admire it thoroughly. Kukukukuku!....”

The man’s laughter reverberated in the empty room of the uppermost floor of that tower.

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Author note:

There’re a lot of people who want Angelica to be revived, but since the beginning one of those siblings was going to be sacrificed so…please swallow your tears.

And those who expect something like that, please forgive me (´▪ω▪`)

Interlude 3 – Dragon Hunt Meeting

Author Notes

A story in EHO's game period.

It's only chat though lol.

On a certain day and month, various guild masters from the top guilds in Eternal Horizon Online gathered. They held a discussion about the strategy to beat an event boss, the golden dragon {Naga Raja}. This is the chat log from those days.

(´・ω・`) [Guild: Town Fashion Center]
ω・`) peek~ I heard there was a meeting so I came.

Debuta [Guild: Metabolic Chivalric Order]
Ah, Mura-san~ Good Evening!
(TL: Debuta = from debu and buta, debu means fatty and buta means pig)

Achako [Guild: Afternoon Tea Party]
Shima-san (*・ェ・*)ノ~☆ Good evening♪
(TL: Achako = tea girl)

Momongai [Guild: Mu People Club]
(゜▽゜)/ Shima-san. It has become cold so why don't you buy U*qlo He*ttech?

(´・ω・`) [Guild: Town Fashion Center]
U*qlo is an opponent for me.
(TL: Uniqlo Heattech, and perhaps he joking about his name, Shimamura, another fashion branding besides Uniqlo)

Animaru [Guild: Aniki and Happy Friends]
Shima-san, good evenin'!
(TL: Animaru, it's from Ani (big brother), but you could also read it as Animal since he is using beast race)

Debuta [Guild: Metabolic Chivalric Order]

Sorry Mura-san, please leave your party and join here since the party chat isn't open.

(´・ω・`) [Guild: Town Fashion Center]
Ok

Momongai [Guild: Mu People Club]
So, with this are all the crucial members gathered?

Debuta [Guild: Metabolic Chivalric Order]
There are still 2-3 people who are planning to come.

Animari [Guild: Aniki and Happy Friends]
Youjo! There's not enough Youjo!
(TL/ED: ようじょ= youjo, which has ambiguous meaning in hiragana)

Achako [Guild: Afternoon Tea Party]
Youjo? (?_?)
(TL: 養女= youjo = Adopted daughter)

Momongai [Guild: Mu People Club]
Youjo? (゜_。)?
(TL: 妖女= youjo = Enchantress)

(´・ω・`) [Guild: Town Fashion Center]
You-jo eh, I get it.
(TL: ようゞよ= youjo = meme way to write loli)

Animaru [Guild: Aniki and Happy Friends]
As expected from Shima-san, you knew it! That thing which makes me excited and attracted!

Achako [Guild: Afternoon Tea Party]
Reported m9っ`・ω・´)

Momongai [Guild: Mu People Club]
…in the end, what the hell do you want to convey? It's incomprehensible!

Achako [Guild: Afternoon Tea Party]
Aren't they talking about Hiyuki-chan?

Momongai [Guild: Mu People Club]

Ah…

Debuta [Guild: Metabolic Chivalric Order]

Ah…

Animari [Guild: Aniki and Happy Friends]

That's right! If Hiyuki-tan didn't come why did I have to come here anyway? I shall go hunt in a dungeon immediately!

Achako [Guild: Afternoon Tea Party]

And that was the last time we saw Ani's figure…

(´・ω・`) [Guild: Town Fashion Center]

(-人-;) May god forgive his soul…

Debuta [Guild: Metabolic Order]

Well, Hiyuki-chan was also planning to come here, but she seems to have a part time job so she's going to be a bit late.

Animaru [Guild: Aniki and Happy Friends]

Then until my waifu comes, let's wait with our pants off!

Momongai [Guild: Mu People Club]

Pull them up! You're going to catch a cold!

(´・ω・`) [Guild: Town Fashion Center]

If you're talking about Hiyuki-chan, right now she's sleeping beside me, got a problem?

Animaru [Guild: Aniki and Happy Friends]

What the fuck? Shima-san, duel me! I've sent the request so lets take this outside!

(´・ω・`) [Guild: Town Fashion Center]

Sure! We'll fight for Hiyuki-chan's chastity!

Momongai [Guild: Mu People Club]

…And these 2 idiots are part of the server's strongest top 3? It's kind of bullshit isn't it?

Debuta [Guild: Metabolic Chivalric Order]

Wa-wait a minute guys, don't actually leave! We are going to start the meeting!

Achako [Guild: Afternoon Tea Party]
Rather, you guys saying things like waifu or chastity… didn't Hiyuki-chan declare herself that she's actually a boy inside? (`-д-;)ゞ

Animaru [Guild: Aniki and Happy Friends]
The person inside is unrelated!

(´･ω･`) [Guild: Town Fashion Center]
Instead that's a prize, got a problem?

Momongai [Guild: Mu People Club]
Uwaah, these guys are hopeless, we need to do something about it quickly!

Debuta [Guild: Metabolic Chivalric Order]
Err, please don't say things like that when Hiyuki-chan comes. The person himself seems to have had a really rough problem like that IRL, so he might mind it.

Achako [Guild: Afternoon Tea party]
Ah~ now that you mention it, didn't Debu-san meet her directly in an offline meeting? So, was the person a pretty boy?!

Momongai [Guild: Mu People Club]
You also changed suddenly when you heard something about a pretty boy…

Animaru [Guild: Aniki and Happy Friends]
She is a female otaku after all.

(´･ω･`) [Guild: Town Fashion Center]
Oh (*´･д･)(･д･`*) Noes~

Achako [Guild: Afternoon Tea Party]
You guys don't have the right to say anything about it!

Debuta [Guild: Metabolic Chivalric Order]
All you guys have no right to say anything about it! …I mean, the topic right now is talking about how to beat the event boss 'Golden Dragon {Naga Raja}'.

Animari [Guild: Aniki and Happy Friends]
Oh, thanks for Hiyuki-chan's offline pic Debu-san! It's equal to three times the worth of a meal.

Debuta [Guild: Metabolic Chivalric Order]

Haa? You are welcome… wait, I feel it's better if I didn't hand it over.

Achako [Guild: Afternoon Tea Party]

The conversation didn't advance to something new. —Eh, you have his image? Show it! Show it!

Momongai [Guild: Mu People Club]

You are just the same…

Animaru [Guild: Aniki and Happy Friends]

Tsu* jpg

Achako [Guild: Afternoon Tea Party]

O..oooooh, who is this cutie!! It's out of the realm of my imagination! This fatty ruins the picture though.

Momongai [Guild: Mu People Club]

…err, is he really male? Or did he dress as a trap?

Debuta [Guild: Metabolic Chivalric Order]

The person himself said he is a male and he doesn't have that kind of hobby, Momo-san. Also, Acha-chan, you know what you just said right?

(´・ω・`) [Guild: Town Fashion Center]

However, as long as the fundamental part isn't confirmed, I can say that there is not enough evidence to confirm anything.

Momongai [Guild: Mu People Club]

No-no! Are there really retards who suddenly take off peoples pants to confirm their sex at their first meeting?

Animaru [Guild: Aniki and Happy Friends]

Debu-san, call me for the next offline meet! I will meet then to touch and confirm Hiyuki-tan directly! No problem even if I meet her for only an instant! I shall do it either way!

Achako [Guild: Afternoon Tea Party]

Uwaah, retard detected! Or should I say, this is how Aniki really is…

(´・ω・`) [Guild: Town Fashion Center]

Then I entrust the front to Aniki, and I will be in charge for the rear.

Momongai [Guild: Mu People Club]

You guys… what kind of strategy are you talking about…? Or rather, do you guys remember why we gathered here?

Animaru [Guild: Aniki and Happy Friends]

We're here to talk about how to capture Hiyuki-tan right?

(´・ω・`) [Guild: Town Fashion Center]

Is there any agenda besides talking about strategies to capture Hiyuki-chan?

Achako [Guild: Afternoon Tea Party]

Umm, I think we're here to discuss about Golden Dragon {Naga Raja} more or less. We gotta save face for Debu-san who organized this meeting.

Debuta [Guild: Metabolic Chivalric Order]

…err, it's okay. It's a mistake in the first place to try to hold a decent discussion with this lineup.

Achako [Guild: Afternoon Tea Party]

It's the end if you give up you know?

Debuta [Guild: Metabolic Chivalric Order]

I gave up.

Momongai [Guild: Mu People Club]

By the way, I still haven't fought it, was it that strong?

(´・ω・`) [Guild: Town Fashion Center]

Awfully…splendid…

Debuta [Guild: Metabolic Chivalric Order]

Yesterday, around 500 high level players fought it, but within the 2 hour time limit, not even 20% of its HP was shaved away.

Animaru [Guild: Aniki and Happy Friends]

The boss is really cruel…

Achako [Guild: Afternoon Tea Party]

If I had to say it, one of the issues was that there were too many players and the server couldn't handle it. When I recovered from the lag I was already dead…that kind of impression.

Debuta [Guild: Metabolic Chivalric Order]

Yeah it is. So rather than fighting it by needlessly increasing the number of people, I think it's better to lower our numbers by fighting with only level capped players.

Momongai [Guild: Mu People Club]

I see. That's why we held this meeting.

Hiyuki [Guild: Calico Cat Footsteps]

Good evening! Sorry for being late (＞＜)

(´・ω・`) [Guild: Town Fashion Center]

Ah, Poko-tan coming in!（・∀・）

(TL: A meme for people who just logged in)

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Kyuuketsu Hime wa Barairo no Yume o Miru - Chapter 2 – Turbulence in Royal Capital

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